

Hafa Adai!

NMC alumna Maria Dizon makes strides in Oregon. **PAGE 2**  
EPA: \$300K in Brownfields funding awarded to OPD. **PAGE 3**

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## NMTI: \$737K unaccounted for

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
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REPORTER

**“W**here's the money?” This was a question raised by Northern Marianas Technical Institute chair Mario Valentino after finding out that only \$13,000 of the \$750,000 of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker funds was transferred into the vocational institution's bank account.

**See NMTI on Page 4**

### Cop resigns after 2 positive drug tests

**AT A GLANCE**  
As of 7pm, May 12, 2021

#### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Pfizer/BioNTech			
Initiated:	<b>20,168</b>		
Fully Vaccinated:	<b>18,224</b>		
Moderna			
Initiated:	<b>3,353</b>		
Fully Vaccinated:	<b>2,446</b>		
Janssen			
Fully vaccinated:	<b>82</b>		

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	<b>8,043</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8,060</b>
Recovered	<b>7,814</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7,831</b>
Active	<b>73</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>91</b>
Deaths	<b>139</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>139</b>
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	<b>158,944</b>		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	<b>170</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>170</b>
Recovered	<b>134</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>134</b>
Traced via Travel Screening	<b>36</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36</b>
Deaths	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	<b>26,131*</b>		
Days since last community transmission	<b>56</b>		

\*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

### INSIDE

#### LOCAL

The Palauan community joins the call for a universal garbage collection system.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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#### BUSINESS

Having a personal trainer could be one of the best investments when it comes to overall well-being.

**PAGE 12**



#### ENVIRONMENT

The worst environmental problem on island is people dumping trash everywhere.

**PAGE 14**



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Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan), first from left, joins the Northern Marianas Technical Institute board of trustees and NMTI's interim chief executive officer Jodina Attao, first from right, at its special board meeting yesterday at its facility in Lower Base.

JUSTINE NAUTA



By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. management wants to again extend its temporary power supply agreement with Aggreko for 18 months at a cost of \$1.6 million.

In a presentation at yes-  
**See EXTEND on Page 4**

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power plant manager Richard Cano holds presentation about the need to extend CUC's power supply agreement with Aggreko for 18 months, at yesterday's CUC special board meeting at the CUC conference room at the Joeten Dandan Building.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

### Some 1,500 more want to renew PH passports

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
[joshua\\_santos@saipantribune.com](mailto:joshua_santos@saipantribune.com)

REPORTER

On top of the almost 3,000 Fil-

ipinos that submitted passport renewal applications in March and are currently waiting for their new passports from the

Philippines, around 1,500 additional passport renewal applications have already been submitted to the Saipan office

of the Philippine honorary consul to the CNMI.

Processing of the applications can only be performed by staff at the Philippine

**See SOME on Page 4**

# Local

## NMC alumna Maria Dizon makes strides in Oregon

Maria Dizon, a Northern Marianas College alumna, was recently awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Leadership by the Oregon Health and Science University's School of Public Health.

This award recognizes a student who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the academic environment and the public health community.

"We are incredibly proud of Maria as she continues her academic journey and look forward to the amazing contributions she will undoubtedly make in her chosen career path," NMC associate professor and BUILD EXITO principal investigator Dr. Beylul Solomon said.

Dizon currently works as an epidemiology researcher for the Multnomah County Health Department on the

Pacific Islander Data Modernization Project and the Pacific Islander Data Health Equity Project and co-leads the Health and Wellness Research Committee for the National Alliance for Filipino Concerns in Oregon.

After finishing her sophomore year at NMC in 2017, she transferred to Portland State University as a BUILD EXITO program scholar.

**Sentencing date set for man who disconnected govt agency internet**

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A man who pleaded guilty to "willful depredation of government property" as part of a plea deal with the U.S. government will be sentenced on Sept. 24 at 9am in the U.S. District Court of the NMI.

Based on his original and amended plea agreements—which were filed at the district

court on May 4, 2021, and May 12, 2021, respectively—Jonathan Natura used an access card to enter the electrical room of Homeland Security Investigations/Immigration Customs Enforcement on Saipan on May 1, 2020, "disconnected the HSI/ICE cable providing the office with its cable and internet service, and connected a separate cable to his residence," causing damage worth less than \$1,000.

BUILD EXITO is an undergraduate research training program from PSU that aims to support students on their pathway to becoming scientific researchers.



Dizon

Health degree in 2019 and is currently a first-year graduate student at Oregon Health and Sciences University and PSU for her master's degree in Public Health: Health Promotion.

Dizon also serves as a graduate research assistant to the National Institutes of

"Willful depredation of government property" is a misdemeanor, which carries a maximum penalty of one-year imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$100,000, and a \$25 fee for special penalty assessment. If imprisonment is not imposed on Natura, the court may order him to serve a probation term of no longer than five years.

Health's BUILD EXITO program mentoring and supporting scholars from NMC and American Samoa Community College.

In addition, Dizon has also presented her recent research work in Oregon Health & Science University's School of Public Health Research Conference, "COVID-19 Impact Survey for Filipinos in Oregon," a community-based participatory research project that is focused on how

the pandemic has affected mental health, basic needs, finances, and health care access. It received the highest virtual poster scores.

Dizon also earned the best overall research poster award in the 2019 OHSU-PSU Research Conference among undergraduate and graduate stu-

See NMC on Page 4

## MCS to hold 3rd Annual Spring Band Concert

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Mount Carmel School music program is hosting its 3rd Annual Spring Band Concert at the Mount Carmel Cathedral on May 14 and 15. Admission is free, but tickets and seating are limited, in compliance with current COVID safety guidelines. Masks are required to be worn at all times on both days.

Day 1 of the concert will feature performances from the MCS Beginning Band, MCS Concert Band, and MCS 5th Grade Recorder Ensemble, while Day 2 will feature the MCS Jazz Knights, MCS Wind Orchestra, and a special collaboration with the Su-san Band. The bands will play a wide variety of music, including but not limited to classics from Disney movies, traditional concert band and jazz pieces, and an anime opening theme.

Although referred to as the school's 3rd Annual Spring Band Concert, the last concert was held in 2019, with 2020's concert canceled due to the pandemic. A year later, music teacher/band director Julian Greening is just grateful that the concerts is about to happen.

"A lot of places around the world are having [issues with] holding a live concert due to COVID-19, but we are lucky and blessed to have a live concert here on island. I would like to say [a] huge thank you to Mount Carmel School, administrators, teachers, Mount Carmel Cathedral, band parents/guardians, students, Su-san Band and others who are involved with the MCS band activities for [being] able to hold this event," said MCS band director Julian Greening.

Tickets for the event must be requested beforehand, and can be requested by emailing Greening at julian.greening@mcsknights.com. Greening requests that the desired attendance date(s) and how many tickets are wanted should be specified in the email.

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## EPA: \$300K in Brownfields funding awarded to OPD

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced yesterday that the CNMI's Office of Planning and Development will receive \$300,000 in revitalization funding through its Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grants.

This is the first time the Office of Planning and Development is a Brownfields grant recipient and makes the CNMI one of 151 communities nationwide that will receive 154 of these grant awards totaling \$66.5 million in all.

Brownfields funding are typically used in assessing and cleaning up contaminated and abandoned industrial and commercial properties. OPD will use the funds for site assessments, cleanup planning and public engagement. Funded activities will focus on the Lower West Takpochao Planning Area in Garapan.

Nationally, approximately 50% of selected recipients will be receiving EPA Brownfields Grant funding for the first time and more than 85% are located in or serving small communities.

"Through our Brownfields Program, EPA is delivering on the Biden administration's commitment to lifting up and protecting overburdened communities across America, especially communities that have experienced long periods of disinvestment and decay," said EPA administrator Michael S. Regan. "These assessment and cleanup grants will not only support economic growth and job creation, but they will also empower communities to address the environmental, public health, and social issues associated with contaminated land."

"The great flexibility of the EPA Brownfields program helps communities address local concerns about underutilized properties while protecting public health," said Deborah Jordan, EPA's Acting Regional Administrator for the Pacific Southwest office. "These funds will spur investment to revitalize underserved communities throughout America's Pacific

Southwest region."

Nationally, the grant announcement includes:

- \$8.8 million for 11 Multipurpose Grants, which will

- provide funding to conduct a range of eligible assessment and cleanup activities at one or more brownfield sites in a target area.

- \$42.2 million for 107 As-

- essment Grants, which will provide funding for brownfield inventories, planning, environmental assessments, and community outreach.

- \$15.5 million for 36 Cleanup Grants, which will provide funding to carry out cleanup activities at brownfield sites owned by the recipient.

EPA anticipates that it will award the grants once all legal and administrative requirements are satisfied by the selected recipients. (PR)



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<p><b>2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$13,995</b></p> <p>• 48,814 MILES • STK: 20D134A • KBB: \$16,585</p> <p><b>2018 NISSAN ROGUE SP AWD</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$17,995</b></p> <p>• 30,612 MILES • STK: 21H004A • KBB: \$18,555</p> <p><b>2017 MAZDA CX-5 GT</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$18,995</b></p> <p>• 45,271 MILES • STK: 20D121A • KBB: \$19,912</p>		
<p><b>2017 MAZDA MAZDA3 SPORT</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$13,995</b></p> <p>• 38,494 MILES • STK: 7R235 • KBB: \$17,146</p> <p><b>2019 HYUNDAI KONA 2WD</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$17,995</b></p> <p>• 15,640 MILES • STK: 20M100A • KBB: \$19,721</p> <p><b>2018 HONDA CIVIC EXT</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$19,995</b></p> <p>• 10,120 MILES • STK: 18HS935 • KBB: \$22,425</p>		
<p><b>2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$13,995</b></p> <p>• 39,217 MILES • STK: 20H068-A • KBB: \$15,830</p> <p><b>2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON LTD AWD</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$15,995</b></p> <p>• 24,118 MILES • STK: 17R256 • KBB: \$18,424</p> <p><b>2019 MAZDA CX-5 GT AWD</b></p> <p><b>SALE PRICE \$26,995</b></p> <p>• 8,214 MILES • STK: 19P299 • KBB: \$28,460</p>		
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## Fire breaks out at apartment in Sadog Tasi

A fire that occurred at a three-bedroom home at the Flame Tree Apartments in Sadog Tasi last Monday was put out in a little over 30 minutes and no one was reported injured in the blaze.

According to a statement from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, a male

individual called 911 on Monday, May 10, 2021, at approximately 9:52 pm, reporting a fire. A DFEMS fire engine was the first to arrive on scene at 10pm and confirmed it was a structure fire. A two-man team managed to enter the house and, at 10:30pm, the fire was under control and was fully extinguished, accord-

ing to Charlie company commander Lt. John C. Camacho.

A DFEMS Division of Fire Prevention and Arson Investigation, which was led by Firefighter III Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero, stated that the structure was a three-bedroom fully concrete home with one occupant. The individual was not

## CHCC waiting for CDC approval on vaccinating ages 12-15

**By JUSTINE NAUTA**  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is just waiting for the “green light” from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Independent Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to vaccinate teens with the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

This comes after the Federal Drug Administration expanded the emergency use authorization for the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for ages 12 to 15 last May 10.

In a phone interview, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muñá said



Muñá

the decision will come out after today’s meeting with CDC.

“The CDC’s ACIP that will be meeting early Thursday morning, where they will be reviewing safety and efficacy data, clinical considerations for use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines in adolescents (12-15 years old) under the EUA, among others,” said Muñá.

According to Muñá, once a vote is made to expand the use of the vaccine and a summary of their decision and any pertinent information is shared with CHCC and the Governor’s COVID-19 Task Force, they will be announcing any expansion.

“We are pleased to hear of this

news, and we have already been receiving calls and messages from parents anxiously waiting for us to open it to this age group. We ask for everyone’s patience to ensure this critical step of the ACIP review is completed,” said Muñá.

According to the FDA, they have determined that Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine has met the statutory criteria to amend the EUA, and that the known and potential benefits of this vaccine in individuals 12 years of age and older outweighs the known and potential risks. FDA is supporting the vaccine’s use in the adolescent population.

Currently, CHCC is administering the Pfizer and Moderna Inc. COVID-19 vaccine to those 16 years and older.

Cano said the overhaul of Engine 1 will start by middle of October and end in February next year.

Cano said there are two months for the retrofit and four months for the overhaul. He said retrofit means they are going to install a new turbocharger to increase the efficiency of the generator.

For Engine 3, they will also do the retrofit in February to April next year, followed by retrofit of Engine 2, Cano said.

CUC acting executive director Betty Terlaje said that all these projects will require about \$5.7 million.

“\$7.3 million has already been paid, it’s already funded, and has been paid partially to Aggreko,” Terlaje said.

She said they need an additional \$1.6 million for the extension of the Aggreko contract because of the overhaul.

Terlaje said they need an additional \$1.2 million for the overhaul of diesel Engine 7.

In an interview during a break, CUC chair Miranda V. Manglona said they don’t have any figure yet on the release of restricted funds, as they’re going to have an executive session.

“So once we go out we relay the amount of how much we have on hand and how much we release for engine replacement and power plant 1,” Manglona said.

Guerrero says they would rather have the officer resign and not be terminated.

So far, no one has been terminated yet in the police department for anything, Guerrero said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, it was former DPS commissioner James Deleon Guerrero who urged the Legislature in 2014

to make drug testing mandatory for law enforcers. Before this, drug testing was random and not mandatory. Deleon Guerrero argued that making drug testing mandatory will ensure that there will be funding for this program. He also argued that if drug testing wasn’t mandatory, officers will find it difficult to ensure compliance in the community.

harmed during the time of the fire, and did not request to be seen by the medics on scene. One bedroom on the east side sustained severe to moderate smoke and heat damage. The entire home had minor smoke

damage throughout the interior.

Firefighter III Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero stated that the fire is “still under investigation and more information will be given out accordingly. (PR)

committee not to worry about it.

“I kept asking, ‘Where’s the records,’ ‘Where’s all the stuff,’ [and I was told], ‘Don’t worry about it, it’s got nothing to do with you. We’re just transferred everything.’ [But] no, it was a sloppy transfer that’s unacceptable. And here’s where we’re at now,” he said.

Valentino said he did not get the transparency he was looking for from the transition committee when it came to the financial statements.

“Why was it a problem to even include this in the transition report? I waited two months, and I had to submit a report without that information,” he said.

Valentino said the audit report did “miraculously” appear and was later turned in but there is still \$737,000 that is unaccounted for.

It was also learned from NMTI trustee Rick Kautz that the \$750,000 in CNMI-Only Transitional Worker funds was only for fiscal year 2020, covering the period from Oct. 1, 2019, to September 2020. Since then, no money has been appropriated to NMTI.

Kautz said he is going to reach out to Finance Secretary David Atalig, who chaired the transition finance committee, to get all the information he needs.

not so sure what is the timeframe,” said Philippine honorary consul Glicero “Eli” Arago.

For a Philippine citizen in the CNMI applying to renew their passport, the application can be found and completed online. From there, the Philippine Consulate General in Guam verifies the information provided, collects biometrics and takes pictures, and uploads and sends information to the Department of Foreign Affairs in the Philippines. If approved, the passport will be printed in the Philippines, and once done is sent back to Saipan.

The Guam consular office had yet to comment on the effects of the pandemic on passport processing or given any concrete details regarding another mobile consular outreach on Saipan. The Guam Consulate General used to hold an outreach in the CNMI quarterly each year but was forced to cancel all outreach activities in 2020 due to the pandemic and only resumed last March.

Research Program for Underrepresented Persons (STEP UP) for three consecutive years. Dizon then went on as a Child Health Assessment in the Pacific Program Scholar and Research Fellow housed in NMC-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services and the University of Hawaii.

“It’s now coming full circle since I serve as a graduate research assistant, guiding fellow students from the Pacific like me through their pathways to becoming research scientists who also seek to find solutions to today’s major health problems,” Dizon said. (NMC)

## NMTI

**From Page 1**

Speaking at the NMTI special board meeting via Zoom, Valentino questioned why the institute has nothing in its bank account when, in fact, they received the entire \$750,000.

It was learned that \$13,000 out of \$750,000 was spent for NMTI’s payable, which leaves \$737,000 unaccounted for.

Also, it was learned that the transition committee that handled the transition of NMTI from a private nonprofit into a government agency didn’t disclose in its transition report how the \$750,000 in CNMI-Only Transitional Worker funds that NMTI got was spent.

This is why Valentino is now pushing for an independent audit to be done to track down where the money went.

“Typically, when a company transfers over, there’s a forensic scrub up. ...That’s what we wanted this [audit] for, to exonerate people to make sure that it’s there...and if it’s not there, we need to know why,” said Valentino.

Valentino said his attempt to get the records of prior audits have always been brushed off and was told by the people on the NMTI transition

## SOME

**From Page 1**

Consulate General office in Agana, Guam, since it has the biometrics equipment necessary for this. An unexpired passport is a requirement for foreign workers to secure a work visa in the CNMI.

The last time a mobile consular outreach of the Philippine Consulate General-Guam was held on Saipan was from March 18 to April 11 this year, according to *Saipan Tribune* archives. While nothing is currently finalized, plans for another consular outreach program on Saipan is a possibility.

The usual turn-around time from applying to renew one’s Philippine passport to receiving the new passport was about eight weeks but the COVID-19 pandemic might have introduced a variable in the process.

“The usual waiting period is eight weeks, but with this pandemic we’re

## NMC

**From Page 2**

dents for her work on “Barriers and Facilitators of Recruiting Vulnerable Populations into Research,” which is about Latino parents, obesity prevention, and clinical trials.

When asked how NMC has influenced her life, Dizon said, “NMC paved a way for where I am now with its partnerships.”

When Dizon was 16, she was accepted as a research fellow at NMC’s joint program with the National Institutes of Health’s Short Term

## COP

**From Page 1**

when caught on their first offense, an officer will sign a contract with the Office of Personal Management that says they are subject to termination if an officer gets a second positive drug test. However,

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This Saturday, May 15, the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, in partnership with the 302nd Quarter Master Detachment 1, is inviting the public to the Garapan Fishing Base for a static display of military vehicles from 9am to 12pm.

This event is being held in recognition of the men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces and in celebration of National Military Appreciation Month. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios have proclaimed May 15 as CNMI Armed Forces Day, in recognition of the sons and daughters of the Marianas and all the men and women across the nation's Armed Forces.

The U.S. Army Recruitment Center will also be participating in the Garapan Fishing Base event, as well as the Marianas High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps to showcase its core abilities through drill demonstrations.

On Tinian, the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs and Tinian Mayor's Office, in partnership with the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 and Marines Corps Tinian Detachments, will have a roadside waving along Broadway on May 12, at 4pm; Movie Night on May 14, at 7pm at the Amphitheater; Hero Fun Day on May 15, at 7am at Taga Beach; and a Memorial

## May 15 is proclaimed US Armed Forces Day



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios are joined by other guests for a commemorative photo at the Office of the Governor conference room after signing the proclamation that declares May 15 as CNMI Armed Forces Day.

Day ceremony on May 31, at 10am at Kastiyu Field.

In the proclamation, which Torres and Palacios signed last Tuesday, they said: "For generations, the sons and daughters of the Marianas, arm in arm with the men and women across our nation, have boldly answered the call to serve with great pride and distinction in our nation's armed forces. These soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, national guardsmen, and coast guardsmen,

have endured many sacrifices to defend the freedoms that make our islands and nation what it is today."

Torres and Palacios also acknowledged the families, spouses, children, and parents behind the brave service members "who too have had their share of sacrifices—from long deployments to relocation, adjusting to new neighborhoods and schools, having to make new friends and sometimes putting their careers on hold."

"...We [often] take for granted the security of our borders and the freedom that we enjoy in our lives. Today's proclamation event is very personal to me. Our military is not only in the front line of our security but they also were in the front line during our recovery efforts for [Typhoon] Souledor and [Super Typhoon] Yutu and with this pandemic," said Torres. "We could never be thankful enough for our men and women for their sacri-

fices they make to keep our nation and our home safe and for their assistance in times of our needs. It is with much gratitude that we take time to honor all of them and with my continuing commitment to furthering our partnership with the Department of Defense."

Palacios recalled the military's support during the recovery efforts after Yutu. "It was during that period where we all witnessed the enormous forces of our service members,

with Rear Adm. Shoshana Chatfield leading humanitarian military operations on the ground. Thank you for all the support extended to our government and to our people and for keeping our borders and nation secure," he said.

Witnessing the proclamation signing were House Speaker Edmund Villagomez, Rep. Joseph Flores, Sgt. Saili Tigilau, and reservists from the 302nd Quarter Master Detachment 1, Army Special Force Master Sgt. Gabriel Strand, Staff Sgt. Michael Ryan of the U.S. Army Recruitment Center, Women's Affairs Office, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, Criminal Justice Planning Agency, special assistant Glenna Sakisat Palacios and the staff of the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs.

Ryan expressed appreciation for being invited to this year's proclamation signing and for the community's support. "Thank you for inviting me to witness today's proclamation. I also would like to thank you all and the CNMI community for the strong support you extend to the U.S. Army and in our recruitment efforts to continue increasing enlistment of CNMI residents into the Armed Forces," he said.

"We look forward to engaging with our community members in Saturday's static display event," said Tigilau. (PR)



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT JVA No. 21 – 041

Opening Date: May 6, 2021 • Closing Date: May 19, 2021

**POSITION TITLE:**  
DEPARTMENT:  
**LOCATION:**  
**ANNUAL SALARY:**  
**CONTRACT:**  
**POSITION(S):**

Trades Assistant  
Tinian Water Division  
Tinian, Northern Marianas Islands, USA  
\$16,742.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt  
Not Contracted  
One (1)

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Tinian Resident Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Division.

**Duties:**

- Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities.
- Performs daily well and pump station facility maintenance, cleaning and monitoring;
- Assists plumbing and chlorine maintenance crew;
- Utilizing digging equipment for locating and repairing leaks;
- Repairing and securing pressure reducer valves, main valves, service lines and laterals, and booster pumps;
- Assisting with meter installation and repair;
- Collecting water samples.
- Must be able to lift objects weighing at 40 lbs. or more.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**Minimum Requirements:**

Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or ABE Program AS Diploma.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

**Licensing/Certification:**

- Valid Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT JVA No. 21 – 042

Opening Date: May 6, 2021 • Closing Date: May 19, 2021

**POSITION TITLE:**  
DEPARTMENT:  
**LOCATION:**  
**ANNUAL SALARY:**  
**CONTRACT:**  
**POSITION(S):**

Trades Assistant  
Tinian Administration  
Tinian, Northern Marianas Islands, USA  
\$16,742.00 to \$22,602.00 per annum, Non-Exempt  
Not Contracted  
One (1)

The incumbent will be under the overall supervision of the Tinian Resident Manager or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of Power Division.

**Duties:**

- The Trades Assistant assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools.
- Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues.
- Responds to trouble calls as needed.
- Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site.
- Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used.
- Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete.
- Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports.
- Performs fuel delivery and fuel transfer for power plant;
- Reports on daily & monthly fuel status and power generation data;
- Assists with meter readings & verifications and customer meter connections, disconnections and reconnections and testing;
- Assist with the customer meter inspections and power distribution as-built, inspections & line staking;;
- Assists with power technical assistance- monitors and inspects contractor for power installations, assignments and projects.
- Responding to customer calls.
- Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing obstacles.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

**Minimum Requirements:**

Education: High School Diploma, General Education Diploma, or Adult Basic Education.

Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology.

Skills in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

**Licensing/Certification:**

- Valid Driver's License with appropriate class;

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

**How to Apply:** Submit your completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday, 7:30am – 4:30pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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# Congress to hold historic hearing on insular cases resolution

U.S. Congress will hold an historic, first-ever congressional hearing today focused exclusively on the *Insular Cases*, a series of Supreme Court cases grounded in racial discrimination that established a doctrine of "separate and unequal" for residents of U.S. territories.

The hearing will start at 1pm EDT (Thursday at 3am here in the CNMI and Guam), with the House Natural Resources Committee considering House Resolution 279, which seeks to condemn the *Insular Cases* as both contrary to the Constitution and for their racist underpinnings. Neil Weare, president and founder of Equally American, is among the witnesses who have been invited to testify. Equally American advocates for equality and civil rights for

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Meet your CNMI legislators

All community members are invited to attend town hall meetings this week, today, May 13, at the William S. Reyes Elementary School cafeteria (Chalan Kanoa, Precinct 2) at 6pm, and tomorrow, May 14, Carolinian Utt (Garapan, Precinct 3), at 6pm.

The town halls are part of a series of quarterly meetings throughout the Commonwealth hosted by members of the CNMI Legislature, and will include reports on legislative activities, expenditures, and community projects, followed by a question-and-answer portion and public comments.

For more information about the Precinct 2 town hall, contact the Office of Rep. Tina Sablan at 664-8829 or rep.sablan@cnmleg.net. For more information about the Precinct 3 town hall, contact the Office of Rep. Denita Yangetmai at 664-8965 or rep.denky04@gmail.com or the Office of Rep. Vicente Camacho at 664-8903 or rep.camachov@cnmleg.net. (PR)

### Kagman schools PTSA meeting on May 18

The Kagman Unified Schools (Kagman Elementary School, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, and Kagman High School) will have a virtual PTSA meeting on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm. To attend, log on to: <http://bit.ly/May2021PTSA>

Meeting topics will include the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Kagman High Library SARO, and Project Hope.

For more information, call the KagES main office at 237-3150; COVMS main office at 237-3165; or KHS main office at 664-3780. (PR)

the 3.5 million American citizens living in U.S. territories.

"I applaud [committee chair Rep. Raul M.] Grijalva for holding this historic hearing, and I look forward to testifying in support of this bipartisan resolution," said Weare. "This resolution is an important step toward turning the page on the *Insular Cases* and the colonial framework they established."

The House Resources Committee released the following statements from co-sponsors of H. Res. 279: «The *Insu-*

*lar Cases* belong to a very dark chapter of U.S. history when the doctrines of 'separate but equal' and attitudes about racial inferiority explicitly defined the country's laws," said Natural Resources Committee chair Raúl M. Weare Grijalva (D-AZ).

"We cannot erase this harmful past, but as legislators, we have an obligation to ensure that its legacy does not extend

into the future," he added.

"The *Insular Cases*, decided in 1901 by the same Supreme Court that upheld segregation laws, have no place in modern day America," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

"In these cases, the Supreme Court calls people living in U.S. territories 'alien' and 'savage and restless people,' antiquated notions of racial inferiority that should not be the basis of any contemporary court decisions. Our resolution recognizes these racist and imperialist assumptions for what they are. It rejects the *Insular Cases* and affirms the importance of equal rights for Americans everywhere, even in the U.S. insular areas."

"The *Insular Cases* go well beyond the ability of citizens in the territories to vote," said Delegate Stacey Plaskett (D-VI). "We pay billions of dollars in federal taxes, and yet residents of U.S. territories are denied access to critical federal programs and support. Otherwise eligible citizens in the territories are denied Supplemental Security Income, leaving our most vulnerable seniors and disabled people to fend for themselves.



## CNMI SBDC announces recent hires

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI Small Business Development Center has hired consultants in response to an influx of demand for SBDC's services due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking at Tuesday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan Ballroom, CNMI SBDC director Nicole Babauta said the new consultants came aboard last week and will be available up to Sept. 30 this year. She said a \$72,800 federal funding allotted by the Guam Small Business Development Center allowed Saipan, Tinian, and Rota's SBDC offices to hire these new consultants.

One of those consultants is former Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Maxine Lazlo, who said the Guam SBDC funding

"allow for businesses to meet more one-on-one with SBA to specifically talk about the [COVID-19] Economic Injury Disaster Loan], the [Pay-

check Protection Program] if it becomes available again, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, as well as other resources that we hear about that are related to COVID that will help businesses in their recovery."

All SBDCs are part of a program under the U.S. Small Business Administration. The CNMI SBDC is part of the SBDC Pacific Islands Network, which includes SBDCs on Guam, in Kosrae, Palau, Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei. Currently, the Saipan SBDC provides business advice services, conducts online small business training programs where prospective business owners can learn how to turn their ideas into a business, and helps refer businesses to relevant financial programs and loans.

Those interested in the CNMI SBDC's services or current business owners who are in a tough spot financially due to the pandemic can visit their website at [pacific-sbdc.com](http://pacific-sbdc.com).



### NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-003-21  
CPA Concession No.: TAD-2020-01-02

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning April 13, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday to Friday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed every Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid. Payments are accepted in the form of cash or cashier's checks made out to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at [joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com](mailto:joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com) no later than May 06, 2021.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-003-21." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, May 25, 2021, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on May 25, 2021, at 3:00p.m. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire(s) to operate such concessions to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date

testify are Dr. Daniel Immerwahr, professor, Department of History, Northwestern University; Guam vice speaker Sen. Tina Muñoz Barnes; Prof. Rose Cuson-Villazor, professor of Law and Chancellor's Social Justice Scholar, Rutgers University; Dr. Peter S. Watson, president and CEO, the Dwight Group, LLC and former White House director of Asian Affairs, National Security Council; and American Samoa Lt. Gov. Talauega Eleasalo Va'aole Ale.

The House Natural Resources Committee will meet virtually at 1pm EDT, with the proceedings livestreamed at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_ZYBMHL-n1mM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ZYBMHL-n1mM) and <https://www.facebook.com/NRDems/posts/5555995237808240>. (PR)

Federal programs, including Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Child Tax Credit, and the Earned Income Tax Credit, are either capped or denied altogether. This discrimination against residents of the territories must end now."

"These last vestiges of blatant racism in governance and interpretation of the law, used today to validate the unequal treatment of Americans in territories, are staring us in the face, daring us to bring them down," said Delegate Michael San Nicolas (D-GU). "The question of our time is: will we blink?"

The hearing will include two panels of experts and, besides Plaskett and Weare, others who were invited to

**PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
CNMI GOVERNMENT  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**RFP NO.: RFP21-GOV-082**  
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 30, 2021 TIME: 02:00 P.M.  
**GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.  
\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\*  
THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIACT SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.  
THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG  
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON  
DIRECTOR, PROC. SERVICES



### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Statewide Independent Living Council

"Yes I Can!"

P.O. Box 501521, SAIPAN, MP 96950 • Tel: (670) 322-6537/8 • Fax: (670) 322-6548  
TTY: (670) 322-6549 • E-Mail: [nmidir@ovrgov.net](mailto:nmidir@ovrgov.net)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 2021 Second General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort from 9:00 a.m.~11:00 a.m. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

## AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of May 19, 2021
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes of FY 2021 SILC First General Membership Meeting Minutes of February 09, 2021
- V. Reports
  - A. Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) Chairperson
  - B. Center for Living Independently (CLI) Executive Director
  - C. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Executive Director
- VI. Old Business
  - A. New Public Relation Position Proposal
  - B. SILC Info Session
  - C. General Membership Listing
  - D. International Day for People with Disabilities (IDPWD)
- VII. New Business
  - A. Collaborative Awareness Campaign with SRC and SILC
  - B. Creation of brochures
- VIII. Consumer Forum
- IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
  - A. Disability Network Partners (DNP) Float
  - B. Revision of Independent Living for Older Blind (ILOB) eligibility criteria
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter are asked to call Tiava To'omata at 322-6537/38 (voice) no later than Friday, May 14, 2021.

/s/ John Jr. DLG. Demapan  
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## It's time for paid family leave

President Joe Biden's American Families Plan contains a long list of potential investments aimed at revitalizing the country, but one proposal in particular is long overdue: paid family leave.

With no federally mandated paid leave, the U.S. finds itself an anachronism in comparison with dozens of other industrialized countries. As such, it falls further behind economic competitors in terms of the number of women participating in the labor force. The situation has gotten worse with the coronavirus pandemic, which has pushed more women from the workforce to the lowest levels in more than three decades. It's time the country acknowledged that paid family leave is needed to remain competitive.

Biden's plan would commit \$225 billion over a decade toward implementing paid family and medical leave. It would provide workers up to \$4,000 a month when they take family or medical leave. A range of weekly wages would be replaced, rising to 80% of wages for the lowest-earning workers. Within 10 years, the plan would guarantee 12 weeks of paid parental, family and personal illness leave.

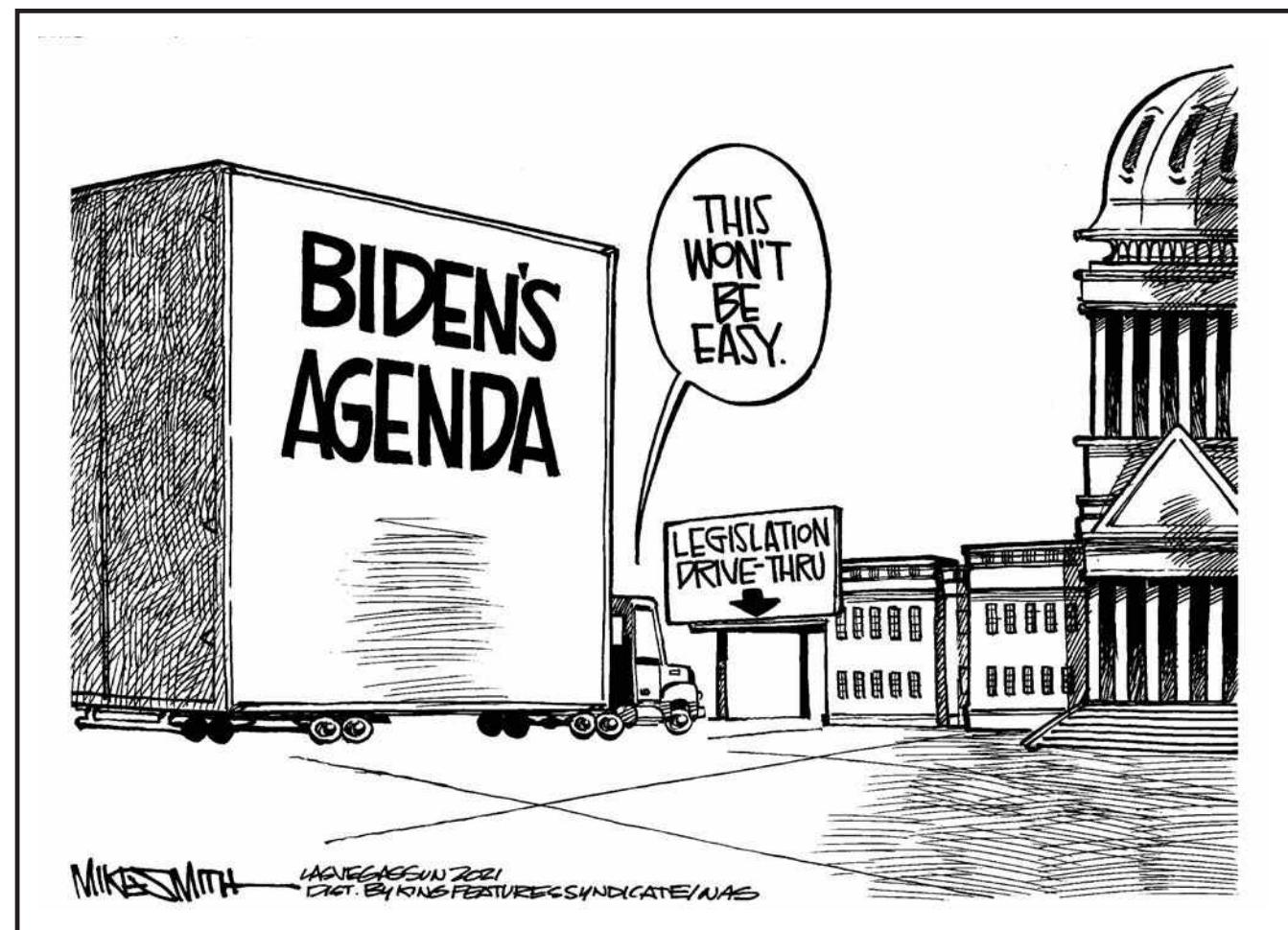
Under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act now in place, workers can qualify for 12 weeks of leave for the birth of a child, to care for a sick family member, or for other medical reasons. Although the worker's job is protected, it is unpaid, and many simply cannot afford to forgo 12 weeks of pay.

The Biden administration estimates that nearly 1 in 4 new mothers returns to work within two weeks of giving birth and 1 in 5 retirees left the workforce earlier than planned to care for an ill family member. Although some companies have seen the benefit of offering paid leave as a way of retaining valued employees, the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that 95% of the lowest earners still have no access to paid family leave.

Paid family leave helps workers and employers alike. New parents have the opportunity to be at home with their child in those earliest days, and studies from the few states that do have paid family leave show that mothers, in particular, are more likely to return to the workforce following the leave of absence. Those with a sick family member can facilitate important and needed care without worrying about their financial situation. And companies benefit from higher rates of worker retention and reduced turnover costs.

The plan proposed by Biden offers a starting point to begin phasing in a national policy of required paid family leave. It's something that is needed if the U.S. is to maintain a robust, competitive workforce.

(c) 2021 the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



## Stop fretting about 'herd immunity'—we're close, if not already there

If to assuage a bottomless public appetite for bad news, every advance in the fight against COVID-19 seems to inspire a surge in pessimistic prophecies.

The latest example involves the prospects of reaching "herd immunity"—that is, a level of vaccinations and natural recoveries that will render the virus no longer a threat to public health.

A number of recent reports cast doubt on whether that goal is reachable. A New York Times article conjectured that herd immunity is "not attainable—at least not in the foreseeable future, and perhaps not ever."

The article placed the blame partially on "vaccine hesitancy" leaving too many Americans unimmunized. The harvest was a surge of Twitter-based obloquy directed at Americans who turn down a COVID-19 vaccine.

Yet respected immunologists say the concept of herd immunity is widely misunderstood—and in fact the conditions for its attainment in the U.S. may be close or already have been reached.

That's because the level of vaccination in much of the country already has been sufficient to drive the levels of infection steadily lower and foster a consistent reduction in new cases.

Indeed, the daily average of new cases per capita, compiled by the Washington Post, has fallen over the last seven days in all but five states. In two of the five, Wyoming and Maine, the figure rose by only 1% and in a third, New Mexico, it was flat.

What's causing confusion, experts say, is that laypersons tend to equate herd immunity with the complete eradication of the virus.

"That's not what infectious disease doctors mean by 'herd immunity,'" says Dr. Monica Gandhi, a professor of medicine at UC San Francisco. "Unfortunately, we've only eradicated a single virus in the history of mankind, and that is smallpox."

Gandhi adds, "We live very comfortably with other viruses for which we've achieved herd immunity, it's just that the public doesn't know it."

For example, few Americans devote much attention to measles, a highly infectious disease, because childhood inoculations are so effective. That's also true of polio, which lost its capacity to terrorize the public soon after mass inoculations with the Salk vaccine were launched in the mid-1950s.

Polio is now regarded as having been eliminated in the Western Hemisphere, though outbreaks still occur in less developed regions.

Vaccinations and immunity achieved naturally by those who have had COVID-19 drive down the transmission of the virus to the point where exposure is rare.

"The non-immune are protected by not seeing the virus," Gandhi told me. "It's just not circulating at high rates. It will keep on

By MICHAEL HILTZIK  
Los Angeles Times

Michael Hiltzik is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



going down and down in the population."

That effect is already being seen in communities that have reached a high rate of vaccinations.

They include Britain, where more than 65% of all residents have received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine; Israel, where 57% of the population is fully vaccinated, and San Francisco, where 74% of residents over 16 have received at least one dose and 56% a full dose. In all three locations, case rates are plummeting.

In other countries, notably India, the virus is still out of control—but the experience of locations where vaccination campaigns have been strong suggests paths for success to places currently beleaguered by COVID-19.

For epidemiologists, that's a very hopeful sign.

"The idea of trying to reach 'herd immunity' as if suddenly there's going to be this magic day when we can all go back to normal and the virus is completely gone—that's probably a fantasy," says Dr. David Dowdy, an epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

"But getting the virus to a tolerable level where we don't have to alter our way of life is probably very achievable," he says. "We're already at a stage in the U.S. where we're seeing case counts go down."

Credit for that result belongs to the remarkable efficacy of the vaccines. The two-dose vaccines produced by Moderna and the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines, which are based on similar technologies, are about 95% effective at protecting against severe disease.

The third widely used vaccine, a one-dose preparation produced by Johnson & Johnson, has been shown to be 66% effective overall and 85% effective at protecting against severe COVID-19.

"That doesn't mean that we can't still have outbreaks, or that if we have variants to which the vaccines are less effective we can't have a resurgence, or if people suddenly go back to normal by having big indoor gatherings again that we couldn't start to

See STOP on Next Page

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## At least 123 people were shot dead over 72 hours. Did America notice?

**A**s of about noon Monday on the West Coast, the nation had endured at least 355 separate shooting incidents over the previous 72 hours in which 123 people died and 297 were wounded. The sick thing is that's not unusual.

I looked up the stats on the Gun Violence Archive as I contemplated the fourth mass shooting in Colorado in 2021, the most recent coming Sunday in Colorado Springs. A circle of family and friends had gathered to celebrate a birthday at a trailer in a mobile home park when, according to police, the boyfriend of one of the celebrants showed up with a gun and shot six adults—avoiding shooting children who were present—and then himself.

Again, the sick thing is, that wasn't an unusual explosion of violence for the U.S. In fact, it was the 196th mass shooting—incidents in which at least four people other than the gunman are wounded or killed—since the start of the year, a pace of well more than one mass shooting a day.

The human tally so far in those incidents: 224 dead and 777 injured for a total of 1,001 people killed or maimed, or five victims per incident.

Late last week the Biden administration announced that it would seek new regulations that would require background checks for people seeking to buy so-called ghost gun kits, a box of parts and a tool or two that anyone with a little mechanical skill can assemble into a working firearm. And it proposed changing regulations to require that the core element of those

ghost guns—essentially the body to which the other parts are attached—will have to carry a serial number that law enforcement officials can trace.

Those are such simple and obvious steps that it should be a national embarrassment that it took this long to take them. But then, anything involving common sense and firearms seems to be beyond the reach of a government too beholden to Second Amendment hard-liners.

Still, no one should think that the proposed ghost gun regulations will affect the broader problem we have with gun violence.

The new rules would help, obviously, as did the Trump administration's move to ban the bump stocks that turn semi-automatic firearms practically into machine guns. The Las Vegas gunman used such a device in October 2017 as he fired 1,000 rounds from a hotel window into the audience at a country music festival, killing 59 people (two more died later) and wounding more than 400.

But in reality these steps just nibble around the edges of the problem.

The Swiss-based Small Arms Survey estimates that there are 393 million firearms in private hands in the U.S., or 120 guns for every 100 people. It's notable that we really don't know the true number, again a function of a government and a Congress controlled on this issue by the people who make, sell and buy the guns.

And Americans keep buying more. Since the beginning of the year the Federal Bureau of Investigation has conducted 16 mil-

**By SCOTT MARTELLE**

Los Angeles Times



Scott Martelle, who joined the Los Angeles Times' editorial board in 2014, is a veteran journalist and author of six history books.

lion background checks, a loose proxy for numbers of firearms sold, with 524,000 here in California, one of the least gun-friendly states in the country.

By all means the Biden administration should continue pushing for stronger and smarter regulations of firearms, especially when it comes to weapons that are designed for combat and do not belong in the hands of civilians. And Congress should pass laws mandating background checks for any ownership transfer of a firearm.

But there is no cause for victory laps for such small advances. Too many people will continue to be shot or maimed because as a society, and as a body politic, we have not made ending this scourge a priority.

Yet, man, are we ready to face down a tyrannical government.

## India's government brought COVID-19 crisis on itself

**T**he Indian government is primarily responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic currently ravaging the nation.

I am hearing daily accounts from my mother in India about relatives falling sick, getting hospitalized and worse. (My mother, thankfully, is among the tiny percentage of Indians who are fully vaccinated.)

Since mid-April, India has been leading the world in new cases and deaths, with around 400,000 infections and 4,000 fatalities reported on a daily basis. Both categories are undercounted.

The media reports are almost unbearable, with accounts of patients literally gasping to death due to lack of oxygen supply. A huge portion of the blame for all this suffering lies with right-wing populist Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the administration he has helmed for the past seven years.

The Modi government was so busy engaging in triumphalist self-congratulation for the relatively low toll the first wave took on India that it neglected to prepare for the second one. The prime minister actually boasted to the World Economic Forum in January that India was showing the world how to deal with the virus. Indian Health Minister Harsh Vardhan assured everyone in early March that the country was "in the endgame" of the pandemic. The government dismantled treatment facilities set up during the first wave.

A national COVID-19 task force did not meet a single time between mid-January and mid-April. And warnings from a scientific panel in early March that a second wave was imminent

were ignored.

Incredibly, from April 2020 to January of this year, India doubled its exports of oxygen, leaving it ill-prepared for this second wave. And despite being a major global vaccine manufacturing hub, India under Modi placed astonishingly low orders for the vaccine with domestic vaccine makers.

India's vaccination drive lost steam due to governmental mismanagement and complacency. And tens of millions of vaccines were given away or sold to other countries, in good part due to the government's desire to be seen as a major global player.

Then there were the officially blessed superspreader events. The top official from Modi's party in charge of a mountainous state allowed a massive Ganges bathing religious festival to proceed in the middle of the pandemic—one year ahead of schedule due to astrological reasons. Millions of Indians took a dip and disseminated the virus all over India.

A pliant Election Commission decided to hold polling in the politically crucial state of West Bengal in multiple stages, reportedly to provide Modi's party a fighting chance to oust a regional entity in power there. The result, again, was a surge of COVID-19 cases.

In keeping with its Hindu nationalist ideology, the Modi administration has a fondness for junk science that extolls the cow and the traditional Hindu medicinal system called Ayurveda. Two cabinet ministers were present at the launch of a medicine (named Coronil) that a godman known as Baba Ramdev, with a

**By AMITABH PAL**

Progressive Media Project



Amitabh Pal, based in Madison, Wisconsin, is writing a book on the phenomenon of global rightwing populism. This column was produced for The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.

medicinal empire, is peddling as a COVID-19 cure.

Apologists for Modi's government offer several defenses: The Indian health infrastructure has always been woefully deficient; health is largely a state-level responsibility; and the cavalier attitude of the people explains the skyrocketing infections.

But Modi was elected seven years ago with the promise of transforming the country. While India is much less federal in practice than the United States, Modi's party or its allies in the governing National Democratic Alliance rule 18 of India's 28 states. And if Indians started taking things lightly in recent months, wrong messages from the government are at least partly to blame.

The Narendra Modi-led government's deeds of commission and omission have led to India's cataclysm. That fact should be recognized and remembered long after the current pandemic is gone.

## STOP

*From Page 8*

see cases go up again," Dowdy says.

Dowdy points out that the toll from the pandemic and its impact on daily life was so monumental that fear of the disease may linger, affecting our lifestyles out of proportion to the level of threat. But he doesn't expect a new wave of infections anywhere near the scale of those that swept across the country last summer and at the end of last year.

"People's perception of the endgame is what's off," Dowdy says. "We're going to have this low level of COVID for a long, long time, and the question is how are people going to react to that. The answers to that are not going to be epidemiological, but social, political and behavioral."

He's right about that. A good example was an April 17 exchange between Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) and Dr. Anthony Fauci, the respected government infectious disease expert, at a

House committee hearing.

"Are we just going to continue this forever?" Jordan asked, referring to mask and social distancing rules. "What objective outcomes do we reach before Americans get their liberty and freedoms back?"

Leaving aside that Jordan spoke as though Fauci were to blame for imposing stringent measures on Americans' lifestyles—in fact, those decisions are in the hands of local political officials—his demand for a certain date or specific statistic that would warrant the immediate lifting of all anti-COVID-19 mandates was scientifically out of place.

Fauci tried patiently to set him right, without success. "You're indicating 'liberty and freedom,'" he replied. "I look at it as a public health measure to keep people from dying... This will end, for sure, when we get the level of infection very low."

Some debate the precise percentage point of inoculation in the U.S. population that will trigger herd immunity. Getting hung up on that particular number isn't a worthwhile exercise.

Simply stated, the higher the percentage of people who have been vaccinated, the faster transmission will fall. New cases will decline even before the population reaches full herd immunity—as has been happening.

Doubts about the battle against COVID-19 may linger. Gandhi believes that worries about how long immunity will last may also be misplaced. That can have global consequences, for the desire to maintain supplies of booster shots could keep vaccines from being distributed in quantity to parts of the world where they're desperately needed now.

So how will we know when we can declare victory? For Gandhi, that will be the point at which case statistics cease to be the focus of public obsession or are reported daily in newspapers or on cable.

The impulse to test even asymptomatic patients will ebb, and the cases that do arise will be managed by the healthcare system as routinely as measles or mumps.

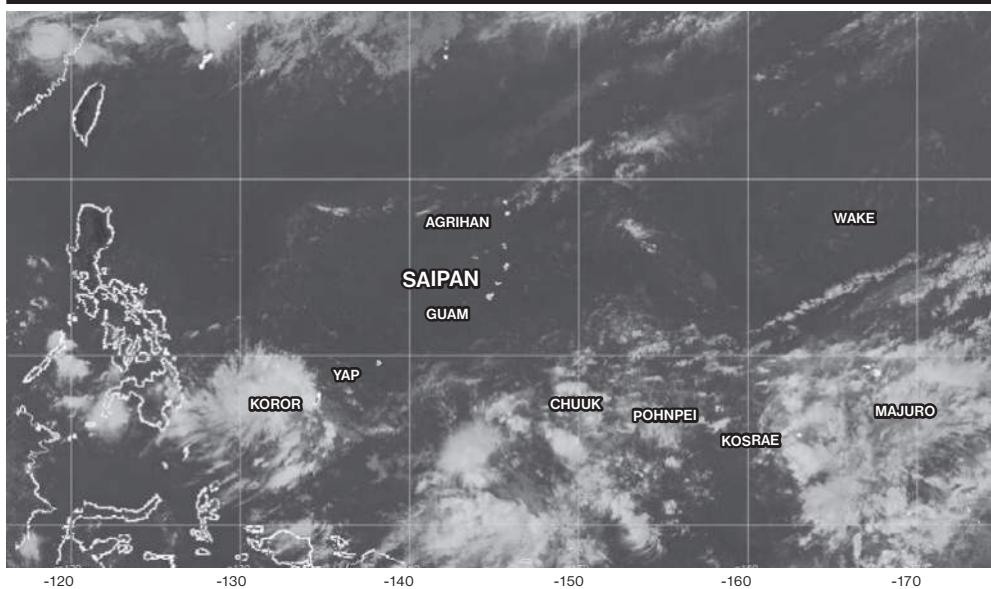
We may not be there yet, but to epidemiologists examining the trend of new cases, we may not be too far off.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
86°	77°	86°	77°	86°
76°	86°	76°	76°	87°
77°				77°

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



**PICTURE TIME: 9:26 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A look out the window shows that partly cloudy skies and probably only isolated showers are moving through the Marianas Waters today. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed mainly of trade-wind swell that is just a little north of east, and wind waves mixed in from nearly the same direction.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

### Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp), follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA		
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	89   81 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	86   77 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	88   72 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86   81 °F
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85   78 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86   80 °F
Majuro	Partly cloudy	85   81 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:39 AM	7:51 PM	-
Friday	7:22 AM	8:42 PM	-
Saturday	8:09 AM	9:34 PM	-
Sunday	8:59 AM	10:26 PM	-
Monday	9:52 AM	11:16 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		
Auckland	Mostly cloudy	66   61 °F
Beijing	Sunny	90   71 °F
Hong Kong	Partly cloudy	84   76 °F
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	83   72 °F
London	Mostly sunny	62   47 °F
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	69   61 °F
Manila	Partly cloudy	92   79 °F
Melbourne	Partly cloudy	60   44 °F
Miami	Sunny	86   72 °F
New York	Partly cloudy	62   49 °F
Osaka	Cloudy	75   63 °F
Paris	Sunny	68   53 °F
Pusan	Cloudy	74   52 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	75   58 °F
Salem	Sunny	74   51 °F
San Francisco	Partly cloudy	59   53 °F
Seoul	Partly cloudy	73   52 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	69   60 °F
Washington, DC	Sunny	70   53 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
2:45 AM	Low Tide	1.21
7:37 AM	High Tide	1.84
2:51 PM	Low Tide	0.00
9:53 PM	High Tide	1.89

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117 6:30am 7:10am 1, 4, 5, 6				UA174 4:50am 5:31am 1, 4, 5, 6			
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183 6:30am 8:50pm 5 via Guam				UA184/174 9:50pm 5:31am+1 5 via Guam			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183 7:05pm 8:50pm 5				UA184 9:50pm 3:45am+1 5			
UA183 7:15pm 9:10pm 1, 3,				UA184 10:25pm 4:10am+1 1, 3,			

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021				




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# Special Feature

**Editor's Note:** The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership initiative has drawn widespread support from the community. Various activities have been conducted and projects have been launched to rally behind the destination enhancement campaign. This section will provide insights on how PPP supporters are committed to the program.



**Together, We Can**  
Public Private Partnership



## Palauan group supports universal garbage collection system

The Palauan Community Association-CNMI, or PCA-CNMI, has joined the call of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers to implement a universal garbage collection system to address concerns on improper waste disposal in the Marianas.

The Naftan Committee of the PCA-CNMI witnessed first-hand the rampant illegal dumping on Saipan after conducting a cleanup drive at Naftan Point last Saturday. PCA-CNMI has chosen Naftan Point as its adopted site in support of GCEA's Public Private Partnership initiative, and was disappointed that even this remote area was not spared from being an illegal dumping site.

"It saddens us to see that so much household and commercial trash are being dumped at our adopted site," said Naftan Committee chair Elsie Ngewakl.

The group also found used oil, tires, and other auto shop trash at Naftan Point and needed a pick-up truck and trailer to load the garbage and dispose of them properly. Their personal experience at Naftan Point and the stories they've heard about



Officers and members of the Palauan Community Association-CNMI and Naftan Committee haul a trailer full of trash that they collected during a clean up drive at Naftan Point last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the widespread illegal dumping in the CNMI prompted the organization to call for immediate action to these concerns.

"A systematic garbage disposal process is needed in the CNMI as soon as possible. It will benefit the people and our environment. I for one like the idea of installing trash bins at beaches and destination sites.

...It will prevent plastic bags from flying into the water," Ngewakl said.

Under its proposed UGC system, GCEA suggests regularly scheduled curbside pick-ups and installing trash receptacles in open spaces. There will be garbage collection zones across Rota, Timian, and Saipan, similar to the current electoral precincts system on the islands, with each zone having

communal garbage transfer stations. GCEA is also pushing for the practice of the 3Rs in waste disposal—reduce, reuse, and recycle—and strict and consistent enforcement of the existing anti-littering law in the CNMI.

GCEA, led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as its chairman, thanked PCA-CNMI and the Naftan Committee, all PPP partners, and other members

of the community for their efforts in helping clean the islands and spread awareness and education on how to curb illegal waste disposal.

"It is the proactive involvement by groups like the Palauan Community Association that helps keep our islands clean, and I thank them and all our partners for their hard work and dedication. Solving our illegal dumping issue will take efforts from all of us, and our ongoing public-private partnership will not only keep our islands clean but will also help us reach our goal of becoming a world-class destination," said Torres.

PCA-CNMI, meanwhile, reminded the community of its responsibility to keep our surroundings clean. "It is illegal to dump any kind of trash in the jungle or the destination sites. It is detrimental to our environment and degrades the value of the sites. We ask everyone to be responsible community members and join our effort to keep the CNMI clean and beautiful," Ngewakl said.

PCA-CNMI will continue to hold regular cleanup drives at Naftan Point, clear its surroundings of heavy vegetation, and install signs for easier and safer access for residents and visitors.



# Business

## Work out with a personal trainer at Latte Built

By BEA CABRERA  
beacabrera@saipan.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Do you have a fitness goal that seems impossible to reach? Are you getting ready to get that summer physique? Latte Built located along Beach Road in Oleai will help you all the way to achieve it with their “two-person personal training” promotion. According to Latte Built owner Derek Cutting, having a personal trainer could be one the best investments one can make when it comes to overall well-being.

“At Latte Built, we have an ongoing promo where two people can be assisted by a personal trainer to achieve their goals which is called ‘Couple Training Promo’ or two-person personal training. Train with a spouse or a friend and each save many dollars if they avail any of the packages available,” he said.

“We’ve had a number of people ask if they can enroll a spouse, a daughter or a friend with them to help keep them motivated and consisted. We said, absolutely, and we’ll give you a discount for each person,” he added.

With everyone’s busy schedule balancing work and school, it is difficult to maintain a daily exercise program to follow. But with a personal trainer, you can lose all the excuses that keep you away from a good work out and you will be held accountable for your own fitness journey. “Personal trainers are professionals. When you have a legal issue, you need to resolve



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

At the center is professional Latte Built personal trainer Enrico Valdez, center.

with or hire a lawyer. If you have a disease, you go to the doctor. When you want to achieve a better health and physique, you have see one of Latte Built’s multi-certified personal trainers,” he said.

“If the clients listen and follow our trainers plans and advice perfectly, we guarantee results...we focus on the client’s individual needs with a program that they are more likely to maintain and eventually see fruits of their hard work... Our personal training packages are actually very affordable and we do this to help more customers who may not be able to afford otherwise.” he added.

Couples Training Promo means two people train at the same time and is supervised or assisted by a professional trainer. The packages are billed one month at a time and promotion rates include 2x/week for only \$256, 3x/week for only \$325, 4x/week for only \$390, and 5x/week for only \$435. “If our

trainer suggests continuing for 3-4 months to see real results, he/she will discuss that with you... One of our personal trainer is Enrico Valdez who is an International Sports Sciences Association-certified personal trainers, strength and conditioning specialist, sports nutritionist, exercise therapy specialist,” Cutting said.

“The promo started on May 1st and will end on June 1st. There is no age limit as long as a parent or legal guardian sign for children under 18 years old. Members have 24/7 access at both Latte Built Oleai and Kagman locations,” he added.

Latte Built Oleai is open Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm and Saturday to Sunday from 9am to 5pm. Latte Built Kagman is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm and Saturday from 8:30am to 5pm. For more information, call Latte Built Oleai (670) 234-2265 and Latte Built Kagman at (670)488-2265.

## Gas stations report shortages as pipeline shutdown drags on

**CHAMBLEE, Ga.** (AP)—More than 1,000 gas stations in the Southeast reported running out of fuel, primarily because of what analysts say is unwarranted panic-buying among drivers, as the shutdown of a major pipeline by a gang of hackers entered its fifth day Tuesday.

Government officials acted swiftly to waive safety and environmental rules to speed the delivery of fuel by truck, ship or rail to motorists and airports, even as they sought to assure the public that there was no cause for alarm.

The Colonial Pipeline, the biggest fuel pipeline in the U.S., delivering about 45% of what is consumed on the East Coast, was hit on Friday with a cyberattack by hackers who lock up computer systems and demand a ransom to release them. The attack raised concerns, once again, about the vulnerability of the nation’s critical infrastructure.

A large part of the pipeline resumed operations manually late Monday, and Colonial anticipates restarting most of its operations by the end of the week, U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said.

Motorists may still feel a crunch because it takes a few days to ramp up operations, but she said there is no reason to hoard gasoline.

“We know that we have gasoline; we just have to get it to the right places,” she said.

S&P’s Oil Price Information Service put the number of gas stations encountering shortages at more than 1,000.

“A lot of that is because they’re selling three or four times as much gasoline that they normally sell in a given day, because people do panic,” said Tom Kloza, an analyst with S&P. “It becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.”

The pipeline runs from the Texas Gulf Coast to the New

York metropolitan area. The states most dependent on the pipeline include Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas, Kloza said.

In Virginia, 7.7% of the state’s nearly 3,900 gas stations reported running out of fuel Tuesday, according to Gasbuddy.com, which tracks supply. In North Carolina, 8.5% of almost 5,400 stations were out, the company said.

There were scattered reports of higher gasoline prices, but prices were rising even before the pipeline incident heading into the busy summer driving season. Nevertheless, Granholm warned gas station owners, “We will have no tolerance for price gouging.”

To ease brief shortages, the White House is considering temporarily waiving a law that says ships delivering products between U.S. ports must be built and manned by Americans.

# Nation

## Number of children traveling alone at border eases in April

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—The number of unaccompanied children encountered on the U.S. border with Mexico in April eased from an all-time high a month earlier, while more adults were found coming without families, authorities said Tuesday.

Authorities encountered 17,171 children traveling alone, down 9% from 18,960 in March, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, but still well above the previous high of 11,475 reported in May 2019 by the Border Patrol, which began publishing numbers in 2009.

Overall, the Border Patrol’s 173,460 encounters with migrants on the Mexican border in April were up 3% from 169,213 in March, the highest level since April 2000. The numbers aren’t directly comparable because a solid majority of those stopped in April were quickly expelled from the country under federal pandemic-related powers that deny rights to seek asylum. Being expelled carries no legal consequences, so many people try to cross multiple times.

Border Patrol encounters with people coming in fami-

lies fell in similar proportion to unaccompanied children — down 10% to 48,226 from 53,406 in March. Slightly more than one of three family encounters resulted in pandemic-related expulsions.

The numbers offer the latest read on one of the most serious challenges to Joe Biden’s young presidency. Despite some encouraging news in April on unaccompanied children and families, Biden has a lot riding on a new “humane” asylum system that has yet to be unveiled. There don’t appear to be quick, easy answers.

Single adults from Mexico and Central America drove the overall increase in activity in April. The Border Patrol had 108,301 encounters with adults traveling without children, up 12% from 97,074 in March. Nearly nine of 10 adult encounters ended in expulsions under pandemic-related authority granted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Biden has exempted unaccompanied children from expulsion, allowing them to stay in the U.S. while pursuing asylum claims. Families with young children are also often released in the

U.S. while their cases wind through the bottlenecked immigration court system.

The government has made big strides moving children from grossly overcrowded Border Patrol facilities to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services shelters, which are more suited to longer-term stays until children are placed with sponsors in the United States, typically parents or close relatives.

The average stay for an unaccompanied child in Border Patrol custody has plummeted to about 20 hours, below the legal limit of 72 hours and down from 133 hours in late March, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said last week. There were 455 unaccompanied children in Border Patrol custody on Monday, down from more than 5,700 in late March.

Health and Human Services has opened 14 emergency intake centers, raising capacity to nearly 20,000 beds from 952 when the Federal Emergency Management Agency stepped in to help March 13. As of Monday, Health and Human Services had 20,669 children in its care.

## House GOP set to oust Trump critic Liz Cheney from top post

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—House Republicans seem ready to toss Rep. Liz Cheney from her leadership post after she repeatedly rebuked former President Donald Trump for his false claims of election fraud and his role in fomenting the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol attack.

Voting behind closed doors Wednesday, lawmakers were expected to remove Cheney, R-Wyo., from the party’s No. 3 House position, a jarring blow to what’s been a fast-rising career. She is Congress’ highest-ranking Republican woman and a daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney, and her demotion would provide the latest evidence that challenging Trump can be career-threatening.

In an audacious signal that she was not backing down, Cheney took to a nearly empty House chamber Tuesday evening to deliver an unapologetic four-minute assault on her GOP adversaries and defense of her own position. “Remaining silent and ig-

noring the lie emboldens the liar,” she said, adding, “I will not sit back and watch in silence while others lead our party down a path that abandons the rule of law and joins the former president’s crusade to undermine our democracy.”

Cheney’s replacement was widely expected to be Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., who entered the House in 2015 at age 30, then the youngest woman ever elected to Congress. Stefanik owns a more moderate voting record than Cheney but has evolved into a vigorous Trump defender who’s echoed some of his unfounded claims about widespread election cheating.

It was initially unclear when the separate vote on Cheney’s replacement would be.

Stripping Cheney, 54, of her leadership job would stand as a striking, perhaps historic moment for the GOP.

One of the nation’s two major parties was in effect declaring an extraordinary admission requirement to its

highest ranks: fealty to, or at least silence about, Trump’s lie that he lost his November reelection bid due to widespread fraud. In states around the country, officials and judges of both parties found no evidence to support Trump’s claims that extensive illegalities caused his defeat.

It’s been clear that Cheney’s days in leadership were numbered as House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., No. 2 leader Steve Scalise, R-La., joined Trump and other Republicans from across the party’s spectrum aligned against her.

Critics said Cheney’s offense wasn’t her views on Trump but her persistence in publicly expressing them, undermining the unity they want party leaders to display as they message in advance of next year’s elections, when they hope to win House control.

“It’s not about right or wrong. It’s about the focus” of House Republicans, Scalise said Tuesday.

# Asia

## AS CASES EXPLODE IN INDIA Scientists race to study variants

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—A potentially worrisome variant of the coronavirus detected in India may spread more easily. But the country is behind in doing the kind of testing needed to track it and understand it better.

On Monday, the World Health Organization designated the new version of the virus a “variant of concern” based on preliminary research, alongside those that were first detected in Britain, South Africa and Brazil but have spread to other countries.

“We need much more information about this virus variant,” said Maria Van Kerkhove, WHO’s technical lead for COVID-19. “We need more sequencing, targeted sequencing to be done and to be shared in India and elsewhere so that we know how much of this virus is circulating.”

Viruses mutate constantly, and the surge in infections here has resulted in more opportunities for new versions to emerge.

But India was slow to start the genetic monitoring needed to see if those changes were happening and if they were making the coronavirus more infectious or deadly.

Such variants also need to be monitored to see if mutations help the virus escape the immune system, potentially leading to reinfections or making vaccines less effective. For now, the WHO stressed that COV-

ID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing disease and death in people infected with the variant.

Indian scientists say their work has been hindered by bureaucratic obstacles and the government’s reluctance to share vital data. India is sequencing around 1% of its total cases, and not all of the results are uploaded to the global database of coronavirus genomes.

When there isn’t enough sequencing, there will be blind spots and more worrisome mutations could go undetected until they’re widespread, said Alina Chan, a postdoctoral researcher at Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard who is tracking global sequencing efforts.

Ravindra Gupta, a professor of clinical microbiology at the University of Cambridge, said: “It has all the hallmarks of the virus that we should be worried about.”

First detected in the coastal Maharashtra state last year, the new variant has now been found in samples in 19 of the 27 states surveyed. Meanwhile a variant first detected in Britain has declined in India in the past 45 days.

Indian health officials have cautioned that it is too soon to attribute the nation’s surge solely to such variants. Experts point out that the spread was catalyzed by government decisions to not pause religious

gatherings and crowded election rallies.

Dr. Gagandeep Kang, who studies microorganisms at Christian Medical College at Vellore in southern India, said researchers need to figure out if the variant is capable of infecting those who previously had COVID-19 and, if so, whether it could result in severe disease.

“I don’t get why people don’t see this as important,” she said.

Sequencing efforts in India have been haphazard. The country uploads 0.49 sequences per 1,000 cases to GISAID, a global data sharing effort, Chan said. The U.S., which had its own troubles with genetic monitoring, uploads about 10 in 1,000, while the U.K. does so for about 82 per 1,000 cases.

Late last year, Indian government institutions were ordered to buy domestic raw materials wherever possible, in keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s goal of turning India “self-reliant.” This proved impossible, since all materials for sequencing were imported, resulting in more paperwork, said Anurag Agarwal, the director of the Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology. The obstacles were most pronounced between September and December, he said, but his lab was able to find workarounds and continued sequencing.

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## Thailand urged not to repatriate reporters who fled Myanmar

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Rights organizations and reporters’ groups urged Thai authorities on Tuesday not to repatriate three journalists who fled to Thailand from military-run Myanmar, saying they would face arrest and possible physical harm.

The journalists work for the Democratic Voice of Burma, or DVB, an online and broadcast news agency, its executive director and chief editor, Aye Chan Naing, said Monday. Burma is the former name for Myanmar and is still used by some opponents of military rule.

He said the three, along with two activists, were arrested Sunday in the northern province of Chiang Mai during a random search by police. They were charged with illegal entry into Thailand.

All five pleaded not guilty Tuesday in a Chiang Mai court.

“Thai authorities should uphold the country’s proud history as a sanctuary for journalists fleeing military repression in Myanmar, and on humanitarian grounds should not deport three Democratic Voice of Burma journalists recently arrested

for alleged illegal entry,” said Shawn Crispin, senior Southeast Asia representative of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists.

“Myanmar’s military regime has repeatedly abused and detained journalists, and Thai authorities should not force these members of the press to face potentially severe retaliation for their work,” Crispin said in a statement.

Amnesty International said the detainees could be subject to physical harm if returned to Myanmar.

“It is imperative that the Thai authorities do not forcibly return these individuals to Myanmar. To do so would place them at real risk of arbitrary arrest and detention, torture and other ill-treatment, and death,” said Ming Yu Hah, the group’s deputy regional director for campaigns. “For years DVB has been a leading, outspoken outlet holding the authorities to account. If returned to Myanmar, these journalists will be at exceptionally grave risk.”

Thai Foreign Ministry spokesperson Tanee Sangrat

said in a text message that “Thai authorities concerned are coordinating to find possible humanitarian solution(s) to this case.” He did not elaborate.

Myanmar’s military has sharply curtailed press freedoms since ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February. DVB and several other news organizations were told they were not allowed to operate on any platform, and about 80 journalists were arrested. About half remain in custody.

Most of those still jailed are being held on a provision in the Penal Code that prohibits comments that “cause fear,” spread “false news, (or) agitates directly or indirectly a criminal offense against a Government employee.” Violations are punishable by up to three years in prison. Many news media and personnel continue to work despite the bans and threats.

Monday’s statement from DVB’s chief editor said it “strongly urges the Thai authorities to not deport (the journalists) back to Burma, as their life will be in serious danger if they were to return.”

# World

## Russia school shooting kills 9



A girl lays flowers near a school after a shooting in Kazan, Russia, Tuesday, May 11, 2021. AP

**MOSCOW** (AP)—A gunman launched an attack on a school in the Russian city of Kazan that left at least nine people dead Tuesday—including seven youngsters—and sent students hiding under their desks or running out of the building.

At least 21 others were hospitalized, six in extremely grave condition, authorities said.

The attacker, identified only as a 19-year-old, was arrested, officials said. They gave no immediate details on a motive.

But Russian media said the gunman was a former student at the school who called himself “a god” on his account

Four boys and three girls, Israel, Hamas escalate fighting with no end in sight

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Israel on Tuesday stepped up its attacks on the Gaza Strip, flattening a high-rise building used by the Hamas militant group and killing at least three militants in their hideouts as Palestinian rockets rained down almost nonstop on parts of Israel.

It was the heaviest fighting between the two bitter enemies since 2014, and it showed no signs of slowing.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to expand the offensive, while Gaza militants unleashed a fierce late-night barrage of rockets that set off air-raid sirens and explosions throughout the densely populated Tel Aviv metropolitan area.

Three women in Israel were killed by rocket fire, and dozens of people wounded. The death toll in Gaza rose to 35 Palestinians, including 10 children, according to the Health Ministry. Over 200 people were wounded.

In another sign of widen-

on the messaging app Telegram and promised to “kill a large amount of biomass” on the morning of the shooting.

“I was in the classroom when a man with a firearm broke into our classroom and just started shooting,” said student Akhmat Khairulin. He said students hid under their desks at their teacher’s direction, though one jumped out of a window.

Attacks on schools are rare in Russia, and President Vladimir Putin reacted by ordering the head of the country’s National Guard to revise regulations on the types of weapons allowed for civilian use.

Four boys and three girls,

ing unrest, demonstrations erupted in Arab communities across Israel, where protesters set dozens of vehicles on fire in confrontations with police.

The fighting between Israel and Hamas was the most intense since a 50-day war in the summer of 2014. In just over 24 hours, the current round of violence, sparked by religious tensions in the contested city of Jerusalem, increasingly resembled that devastating war.

The booms of Israeli airstrikes and hisses of outgoing rocket fire could be heard in Gaza throughout the day, and large plumes of smoke from targeted buildings rose into the air. Israel resumed a policy of airstrikes aimed at killing wanted militants and began to take down entire buildings—a tactic that drew heavy international criticism in 2014.

In Israel, the nonstop barrages of rocket fire left long streaks of white smoke in

all eighth-graders, died, as well as a teacher and another school employee, said Rustam Minnikhanov, governor of the Tatarstan republic, where Kazan is the capital.

The teacher who died, Elvira Ignatyeva, had been an English instructor at the school for four years, thyne state news agency Tass reported.

Footage released by Russian media showed students dressed in black and white running out of the building. Another video depicted shattered windows, a stream of smoke coming out of one, and the sound of gunfire. Dozens of ambulances lined up at the entrance.

their wake, while the explosions of anti-rocket interceptors boomed overhead. Air-raid sirens wailed throughout the day, sending panicked residents scurrying for cover.

In a nationally televised address, Netanyahu said that Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad militant groups “have paid, and I tell you here, will pay a heavy price for their aggression.”

He claimed that Israel had killed dozens of militants and inflicted heavy damage on hundreds of targets.

“This campaign will take time,” he said. “With determination, unity and strength, we will restore security to the citizens of Israel.”

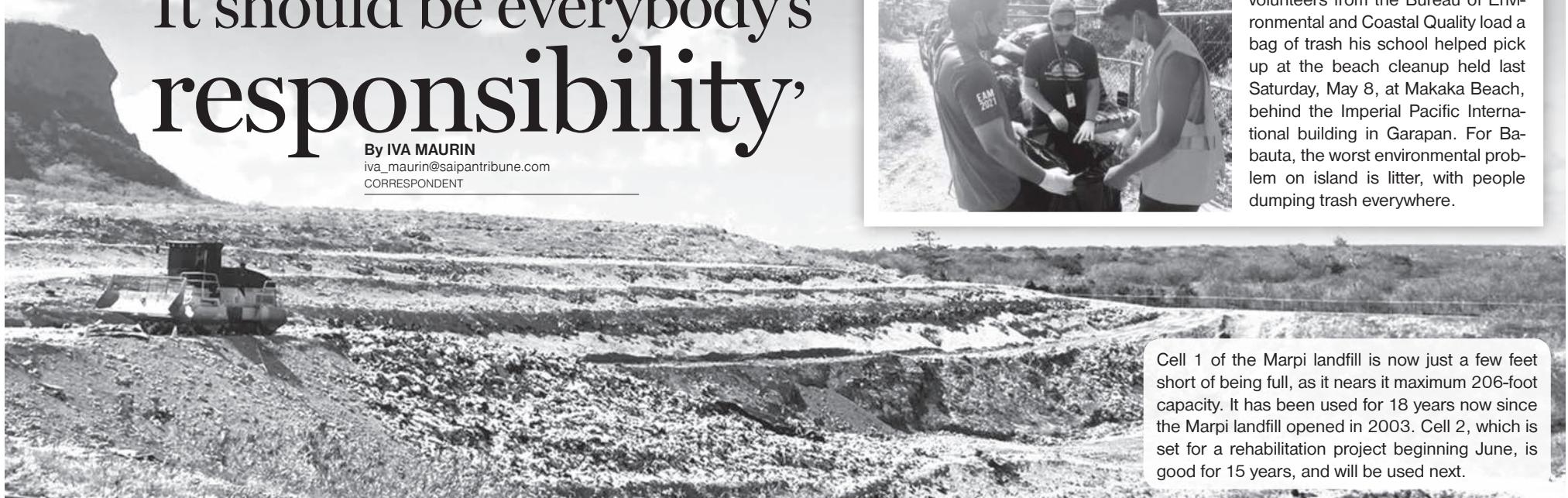
He stood alongside Defense Minister Benny Gantz, a political rival, in a show of unity. “There are lots of targets lined up. This is only the beginning,” Gantz said. The military said it was activating some 5,000 reservists and sending troop reinforcements to the Gaza border.

# Environment

## SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT:

# 'It should be everybody's responsibility'

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT



Saipan Southern High School student Ray Babauta, Jr., right, helps volunteers from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality load a bag of trash his school helped pick up at the beach cleanup held last Saturday, May 8, at Makaka Beach, behind the Imperial Pacific International building in Garapan. For Babauta, the worst environmental problem on island is litter, with people dumping trash everywhere.

**F**or Saipan Southern High School student Ray Babauta Jr., the worst environmental problem here on island is litter with people dumping trash just about everywhere.

Babauta, along with his schoolmates, volunteered to pick up trash along Makaka Beach—behind the Imperial Pacific International building—in Garapan last Saturday, May 8, as part of the beach cleanup organized by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality every first Saturday of the month.

"We should all just volunteer to help clean the community, together as one, unite and just do whatever to keep our place clean," Babauta said. "It's important to keep the environment clean so that trash doesn't pile up. That can cause global warming and changes in the climate, and can give Saipan a bad look to foreigners, people from different places."

The most common waste that volunteers pick up during beach cleanups are cigarette butts, beer cans, and plastics. But, when responding to reports on illegal dumping in common areas and remote areas on island, the most common that BECQ finds range from household trash, furniture, appliances, and gallon containers of used cooking oil.

In an interview, environmental specialist Marlyn Naputi highlighted a major issue that ties directly with proper solid waste management—the lifespan of the CNMI's sole landfill. To date, cell 1, the largest of the cells, and which has been used for 18 years now since the Marpi landfill opened in 2003, is short of a few feet being full as it nears its maximum 206-foot capacity. Cell 2, set for a rehabilitation project beginning June, is good for 15 years, and will be used next.

"To extend the lifespan of our only landfill, waste reduction and recycling is the best way to start. When we practice reducing, reusing, and recycling our waste, we help send less waste to the landfill thus, extending its life," Naputi explained.

**Reduce, recycle, and refuse!**  
Proper waste management begins at



Cell 1 of the Marpi landfill is now just a few feet short of being full, as it nears its maximum 206-foot capacity. It has been used for 18 years now since the Marpi landfill opened in 2003. Cell 2, which is set for a rehabilitation project beginning June, is good for 15 years, and will be used next.



Volunteers from Saipan Southern High School and the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality met early Saturday morning, last May 8, to pick up trash along the shores of Makaka Beach, behind the Imperial Pacific International building in Garapan.

PHOTOS BY IVA MAURIN

## » Monthly cleanups, waste reduction and recycling, enforcing the Litter Control Act



Segregated recyclables at the Marpi Transfer Station at the Lower Base. Drop your recyclables at the Transfer Station, open Mondays until Saturday (except Wednesdays) from 7:30am to 1:30pm.

home. We can lessen the amount of trash we generate by reducing the amount of products we buy, by recycling, and by refusing to consume things we do not really need—and that end up unused and just stored somewhere, or even worse, dumped.

Businesses have started to embrace being green, with no less than Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joseph C. Guerrero challenging businesses to take steps to reduce

consumption, stressing that businesses should always strive to make a conscious effort to conserve, reduce the use, and look out for the environment, because without a good environment, businesses will suffer.

To encourage more businesses to use less waste, the Division of Coastal Resources Management has the "Plastic Free Marianas" pledge program, to address the environmental and public health impacts of single-

use plastics on island, to share the benefits of generating less waste, and to adopt a zero-waste lifestyle.

There are also BECQ-permitted recycling facilities, where people can drop their recyclable wastes: the DPW Recycling Center at the Marpi Transfer Station (322-2745), FSM Recycling (322-2700), and Art Man Recycling (234-8079). Used car batteries (lead-acid) are accepted at Atkins Kroll (234-5911) and at Hans Corp. (234-7586).

Further, the Micronesian Islands Nature Alliance has a program called "Adopt-a Bin" where recycling and mixed waste bins are placed at popular beach sites to help guide people on waste segregation.

"While practicing waste reduction and recycling has its benefits, when it comes to littering and illegal dumping, it comes down to an individual's consideration for their environment. Does he or she have respect for the health of the environment?" Naputi raised.

### Enforcing litter control

The CNMI has an existing law against those who litter. Public Law 19-53, or the Commonwealth Littering Act of 1989, as amended, has a penalty fee of up to \$5,000 to anyone who litters. Penalties are assessed based on the weight, type, and location of when the littering took place.

CRM Permit manager and chief enforcement officer Sam Sablan, in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, stressed the need to focus more on litter control to curb the trash problem all over the island.

"We should focus more on litter control, rather than beach cleanups, because beach cleanups enable picnickers to just rely on cleaners to do this on a monthly basis, and it's really not working. We've been doing this for many years and, in fact, it hasn't improved, it's gotten worse."

Sablan led the group of BECQ volunteers at the Makaka Beach cleanup last Saturday.

"The next step would be focusing on enforcement—having enforcement officers to come out here on the weekends, to work on weekends, enforce and give citations as necessary, encouraging people to dispose of their waste properly, doing a lot of outreach."

Sablan also stressed that proper solid waste management is a shared responsibility, not just the government.

"It's a responsibility of all people, yet people rely on the government. Then, we can focus more of a lot of our efforts into developments and regulating the developments rather than picking up trash, which should be everybody's responsibility."

Help keep the island clean and report any littering and illegal dumping to BECQ at 664-8500.

# Life & Style

## Youngest Dubai DJ scratches her way to fame in world contest

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—Michelle Rasul had just learned to read and write and was already spinning turntables, scratching hip-hop records and making the beats drop. Four years later, at the age of 9, she's one of the world's top DJs and competed in this year's global championship.

At her home in the skyscraper-studded city of Dubai, the turntable whiz from Azerbaijan nodded her baseball cap-adorned head to the beat and showed off her skills scratching, cutting and fading. Her tiny fingers flew across the turntable as she created a sizzling landscape of electric audio effects and recalled how she got her start as a child turntable celebrity—which, in fact, wasn't all that long ago.

### LeVar Burton launches book club with James Baldwin novel

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—LeVar Burton has found another way to share his love of reading.

The actor has launched the LeVar Burton Book Club in partnership with Fable, described on its app and website as a means to discover, read and discuss books, and help build “human connections.”

“As a lifelong advocate for literacy, the opportunity to launch my book club on Fable’s wonderful new platform is extremely exciting and timely,” Burton said in a statement Tuesday. “This partnership will help foster the importance of storytelling while sharing my love of reading.”

Burton, who helped young viewers love books with PBS’ “Reading Rainbow” and hosts

“I looked at my dad while he was practicing DJ-ing and I saw him and was like, ‘Wow, is he doing magic or something? He’s a real magician, bro!’” Michelle told The Associated Press earlier this week, bubbling with enthusiasm. “When I turned 5 on my birthday, I told him, ‘Dad, I want to be a world famous DJ. I’m going to start practicing.’” As though recounting a decades-long career, she grinned and added: “And the rest is history.”

Michelle, the youngest-ever

contestant in the DMC World

DJ Championship, ranked

14th out of 85 DJ stars from

around the world in the “Por-

tablest” category this year, the

global portable scratch com-



AP PHOTO/KAMRAN JEBREILI  
Michelle Rasul flashes a rock-star sign in the lobby of her apartment building in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sunday, May 9, 2021.

petition. The 2021 competition was held online due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Although she didn’t advance to the next round this time, she’s determined to beat her father, Vagif “DJ Shock” Rasulov, a professional who taught her the tricks of the

trade and made 9th this year, in next year’s competition.

“I love competing in battles, I just love DJ-ing,” she said. “It’s my passion.”

Turntablism, which burst onto the music scene from hip-hop artists in the late 1970s, can look like a basic act—tak-

### Dua Lipa wins big at Brits, urges health worker pay raise

**LONDON** (AP)—British singer Dua Lipa called for a “fair” pay raise for U.K. health workers as she was named a double winner at the Brit Awards in London on Tuesday night.

An audience of 4,000 witnessed the glitz of Britain’s leading music prize ceremony at the O2 Arena as part of a test return to mass attendance events in the age of the coronavirus. Among them were 2,500 key health workers and their guests who had received tickets in recognition of their efforts during the pandemic.

Lipa, who took home the British female solo artist and album of the year titles, highlighted the words of nurse and academic Elizabeth Anionwu to say there was a “massive disparity between gratitude

and respect” for those on the health front line.

“I think what we should do is we should all give a massive, massive round of applause and give (British Prime Minister) Boris (Johnson) a message that we all support a fair pay rise for our front line,” she said.

In her acceptance speeches, the “Levitating” singer also paid tribute to Anionwu, who has campaigned against racial injustice for decades, as well as Folajimi Olubunmi-Adewole and Joaquin Garcia, who jumped into the River Thames near London Bridge to try to save a woman last month.

Olubunmi-Adewole, 20, did not survive the rescue attempt.

Taylor Swift said it was an “incredible honor” to receive

the global icon title, which has previously been awarded to superstars such as Elton John and David Bowie.

“I’m really proud to be part of this musical community especially in a year where we needed music so much,” Swift said. “And what we needed even more was the help and support of the NHS and the key workers that are here for us tonight.”

Little Mix became the first all-female band to win best British group, and called attention to “sexism and a lack of diversity” within the music industry.

Harry Styles took best British single for his song “Watermelon Sugar,” while J Hus received best British male solo artist.

Female singer-songwriters Arlo Parks and Griff took

fast,” said her mother Saida Rasulova, a former violinist who also encouraged Michelle’s love of music. “I realized that she’s a star, that she’s really talented.”

When her peers were listening to nursery rhymes, or as she put it, “‘Baby Shark’ stuff or ABC songs,” Michelle said she was hooked on rap legends like Tupac Shakur, Chuck D, Jay-Z, the Notorious B.I.G. and Michael Jackson, who remains her favorite.

Her parents started posting footage of her scratching online, and Michelle’s popularity exploded. Her Instagram account and persona as the self-described “youngest DJ in the world”, has racked up 110,000 followers. Online messages from aspiring DJs ages 6 to 65 poured in from around the globe, she said.

### home the British breakthrough artist and rising star awards respectively.

Former U.S. first lady Michelle Obama sent a video message as she presented The Weeknd with the international male solo artist prize.

Billie Eilish was named international female solo artist winner, while Haim were dubbed best international group.

Live performers at the ceremony, which was hosted by comedian Jack Whitehall, included Lipa, Coldplay and a collaboration between Rag’n’Bone Man, P!nk and National Health Service choirs.

It was the largest audience for a live music event in the U.K. since March 2020, when pandemic restrictions were first introduced.

## Long-married man remains in the closet

**D**EAR ABBY: I have been married more than 25 years and have kids. I’m also gay. I always have been, but when I was a teenager, it wasn’t acceptable and I always believed I would just outgrow it, or learn to live with it. Then came the computer era and the internet—things I never dreamed of while growing up. They changed my life, yet I’m still closeted.

I have had two gay relationships. Both lasted less than a year. I feel like my whole life has been a lie, and I pretty much screwed up my wife because of it. I did provide her with all the creature comforts financially, and gave her two beautiful kids.

I just don’t know if it’s worth coming out at this point in my life. I’m also reluctant because I don’t have a guy in my life right now, although I am looking. It’s just so difficult. I’m torn about how to live the remainder of my life. Please help.

CLOSETED IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR CLOSETED:** Because you are looking for a partner, it looks like you really don’t plan on sticking around once you find one. Tell your wife the truth so she can decide how she would like to spend the rest of HER life. She may need help from a licensed therapist to deal with the ramifications of your disclosure, so be prepared because it may be a shock when she learns the person she

has spent the last quarter of a century with is not exactly who she thought he was.

**DEAR ABBY:** I was adopted and recently came across my biological family. It’s huge. I suffer from severe depression and now know that most of my bio family does, too.

During the past year, my husband and I decided to tackle it head-on with medication, and there has been a noticeable change in me. My husband is very supportive, and we are close. Problem is, I want to meet my out-of-state bio brother alone. He’s the only full sibling I have, and our connection is uncanny.

My husband is a hyper extrovert, and I don’t want his charming antics to distract from this moment (although usually I love it). He, however, says he can’t agree. He’s afraid something with the new family will set off a depressive episode, and I’ll be too far away for him to get to me. That’s understandable. But what do I do? I still feel the same. Is he right or am I?

CONNECTING IN CALIFORNIA

**DEAR CONNECTING:** Not knowing how serious your depressive episodes have been, my instinctive reaction is to advise you to listen to your husband. Surely he wouldn’t have to be with you every minute and could stay at a near-

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

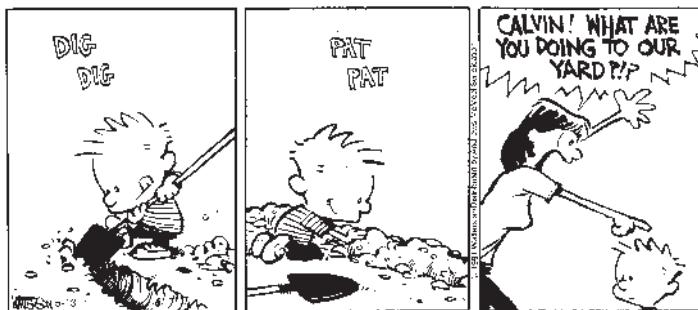
by hotel or motel while you are seeing your sibling.

That said, if there is any chance that an episode could result in you becoming self-destructive, it is important to discuss this visit with the therapist who prescribes your medications before making any plans to go. Do tell your husband that if he accompanies you, you would like him to tone down his need for attention so he won’t distract from your experience or your brother’s.

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# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



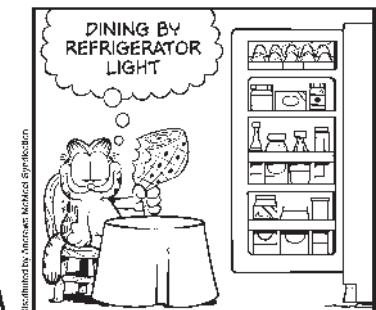
By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®



By Jim Davis

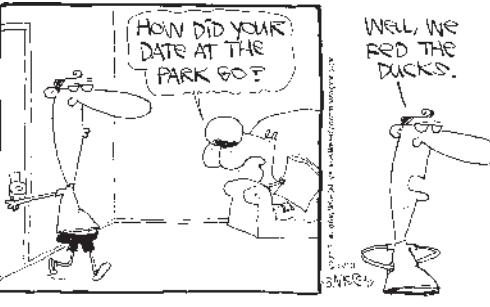


## Adam@home

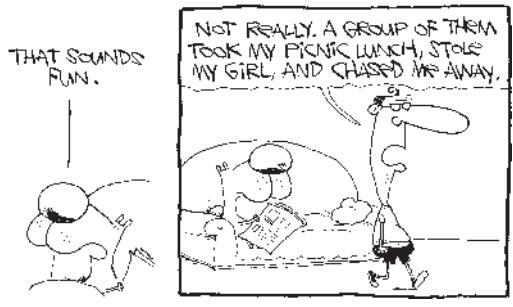


By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

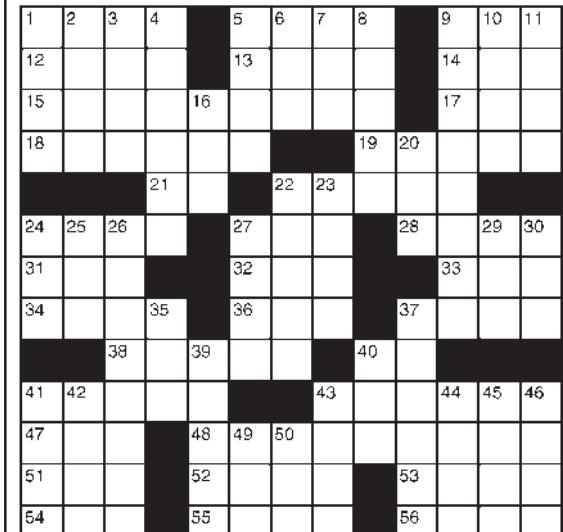


## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36	Water-testing digit	20	Tolkien creature
1	Closet invader	37 Vail gear	22	Loathe
5	Coffee, slantly	38 In a while	23	Job for Holmes
9	Ga. neighbor	40 Alien, for short	24	Ordinal suffix
12	On the Adriatic, say	41 Upper body	25	"No seats"
13	Bator	43 Nile birds	26	Leverage one's authority
14	Overseas agreement?	47 Actress Mendes	27	Partner
15	Reality show for entrepreneurial hopefuls	48 Forgets what one was about to say	29	King, in Cannes
17	Bruins legend	51 Scooted	30	"Life Goes On"
18	Sculpts	52 Eve's man	32	K-pop band
19	Ore deposits	53 Ocean motion	35	Small batteries
21	Type measure	54 Sort	37	Long-legged wading birds
22	Bitter	55 Wimbleton units	39	Roman robes
24	Catch sight of	56 Leisurely	40	Recede
27	CEO's degree, maybe	Solution time: 24 mins.	41	Actress Hatcher
28	Atkins diet no-no		42	Elliptical
31	Capote nickname		43	Doctrines
32	Spa sounds		44	Go yachting
33	"Kidding!"		45	Within (Pref.)
34	Spanish greeting		46	Distort
			49	Poetic tribute
			50	Take courses?

Yesterday's answer 5-13



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

**STUMPED?**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Candice King, 34; Lena Dunham, 35; Stephen Colbert, 57; Stevie Wonder, 71.

**Happy Birthday:** Stop waffling and start doing. Size up whatever comes your way, and keep the momentum flowing. Rely on your intelligence, gut feeling and ability to get things done physically. You will surpass your expectations. Make this a year to remember by taking advantage of situations promptly. Make simplicity and moderation your mantra, and peace and love your objectives. Your numbers are 5, 18, 24, 29, 31, 34, 44.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Push to get things done on time, and you will succeed. Network with people who can help you get ahead. Don't mix business with pleasure or exhibit indulgence in front of people who can influence your future. Romance is featured. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Face change boldly. Consider your options and press forward before someone tries to make decisions for you. A responsible approach will ensure you do what's right and best for you and those you love. Promise only what you know you can deliver. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): You'll have enough discipline to finish what you start. You'll retain information, making it easy to learn something new. Sticking to the facts and expressing your feelings will help resolve any issue that concerns you. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Don't make excuses or hide from what needs addressing. If you get things out of the

way, it will leave time to do something you enjoy. A creative endeavor will turn out to have a lucrative possibility attached. **LEO**

(July 23-Aug. 22): Align yourself with innovative people, and try to make a difference. Be wary of gossip; someone will exaggerate to attract your attention. Stick to a budget, and don't take risks that might jeopardize your health or reputation. **VIRGO**

(Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Stay focused on the changes you want to make. Do your due diligence, and pay attention to detail as well as facts. Refuse to let your emotions infiltrate the workplace. You'll be judged by how you handle clients and colleagues. **LIBRA**

(Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll retain information and formulate ideas quickly. Don't hesitate to take a step in a new direction. Look at logistics and economic trends, and you'll find a spot in the workforce that suits you perfectly. Romance is featured. **SCORPIO**

(Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Spend more time at home or with someone you feel comfortable with, and you will ease stress and come up with a solution that will help you climb out of a rut. Keep life simple and protect your health and possessions. **SAGITTARIUS**

(Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pay attention to the way others treat you. Avoid temptation or those who prompt you to be indulgent. Show some discipline, and handle your money matters cautiously. Romance is in the stars. Make a promise to someone you love. **CAPRICORN**

**EUGENIA LAST**  
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Think outside the box, and you'll come up with a plan geared toward getting ahead professionally, personally and financially. Make lifestyle adjustments that are budget-friendly and will put your mind at ease. Discuss your intentions with your love. **AQUARIUS**

(Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take care of personal matters. Discuss your plans with who you love. Personal and home improvements will turn out better than expected if you stick to your budget. A family project will bring you closer together. Romance is encouraged. **PISCES**

(Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful who you trust with sensitive information. Take your time. Don't take risks that can lead to a falling out with someone you cherish. Learn from the experience you have gained over the years. Focus on health and fitness. **Birthday Baby:** You are reliable, engaging and big-hearted. You are persistent and accommodating. **Birthday Baby:** You are resilient, impressive and protective. You are intelligent and generous.

•: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ♦♦: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ♦♦♦: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ♦♦♦♦: Aim high; start new projects. ♦♦♦♦♦: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2			7		1
			9		
5	8			3	7
9		1	8		
6		4		5	8
4	7			2	9
		3			
6		5			4

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	8	3	2	6	7	1	5	9
2	7	6	1	5	9	8	4	3
5	9	1	8	4	3	2	6	7
1	6	2	3	7	8	5	9	4
8	3	4	5	9	1	7	2	6
7	5	9	4	2	6	3	1	8
3	4	8	6	1	5	9	7	2
6	1	7	9	3	2	4	8	5
9	2	5	7	8	4	6	3	1

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

LE CREUSET

Solution: 9 letters

C	U	R	E	N	A	E	L	C	K	E	T	T	L	E
E	A	A	B	O	L	D	O	R	O	S	A	G	E	
R	U	S	E	T	E	O	E	E	N	T	D	N	V	P
E	D	G	S	D	K	N	G	G	F	L	T	E	A	E
S	I	E	N	E	N	A	S	R	R	E	O	E	P	
I	P	E	C	I	R	O	C	I	L	L	E	S	N	P
A	P	A	D	O	R	R	P	S	N	K	N	O	E	
R	E	S	T	O	P	E	L	S	A	S	M	M	C	R
B	R	S	U	U	P	R	M	E	I	E	L	I	I	H
S	C	N	W	O	L	L	A	H	S	D	I	L	L	F
T	D	E	O	L	A	A	W	T	①	R	O	N	I	L
E	L	V	R	E	T	T	A	M	R	B	O	E	S	A
S	A	U	C	I	E	R	D	U	F	O	R	K	S	M
L	E	R	E	T	S	Y	O	G	P	W	M	A	K	E
S	T	A	I	N	L	E	S	S	A	L	L	E	A	P

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Bold, Bowl, Braiser, Casseroles, Cerise, Cleaner, Cook, Cotton, Dinner, Dipper, Flame, Forks, French, Grips, Iron, Kettle, Ladle, Licorice, Lids, Make, Matte, Meringue, Mill, Mortar, Mugs, Oval, Oyster, Paella, Pans, Pepper, Pestle, Plates, Pots, Rondeau, Round, Sage, Saucier, Sets, Shallow, Silicone, Sleeve, Spatula, Spoon, Stainless, Storage, Teal, Tongs, Whisks  
**Yesterday's Answer:** Halftime

The NEW Treasury 41 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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S 13

# Heat clinch playoff spot with 129-121 victory over Celtics



**BOSTON** (AP)—Tyler Herro scored 24 points and the Miami Heat clinched a playoff spot and sent the Boston Celtics to the brink of the play-in tournament Tuesday night with a 129-121 victory.

Miami moved into a tie with idle Atlanta for fifth place in the Eastern Conference. The surging Heat won for the 10th time in 13 games. They have three games left in the regular season.

"It does mean something. We don't want to act like it's nothing," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "It's not everything we want."

Bam Adebayo and Duncan Robinson each scored 22 points, Kendrick Nunn had 18 and Goran Dragic 17 for the Heat. They swept the two-game series in Boston.

"To have a chance to play for everything is what everyone wants to do," Robinson said. "It's a good first step."

Miami star Jimmy Butler had 13 before missing the second half with an eye injury.

Kemba Walker led the Celtics in their regular-season home finale with 36 points. Jayson Tatum scored 33 and Evan Fournier 20. Boston has lost seven of 10.

"It's a pride thing," Walker said. "Individually, we've all got to look into the mirror and say: 'Are we giving everything we've got?' And to be honest, we're not."

The Celtics, who were already assured of a spot in the 7-10 play-in tournament, trail Miami and Atlanta by three games, but lost the tiebreaker against both teams. Boston has three games left.

"When you have an opportunity to still make the post-season, you can't complain about that," Walker said.

It was the first game for the Celtics since they announced Monday that All-Star forward Jaylen Brown would miss the remainder of the season to undergo surgery on his left wrist for a torn tendon.

"We have to find the best version of the group that's available right now," Boston coach Brad Stevens said.

Coming off a 130-124 win over the Celtics on Sunday, the Heat showed the scoring balance—even without Butler—that carried them to the Eastern Conference title over Boston last season.

"That's who we are when we're at our best," Spoelstra said. "The more weapons we have, we're a more viable team."

Both teams tightened up defensively in the third quarter, and it became more physical, with Boston's Marcus Smart briefly having words with Robinson after the pair went

to the floor hard when Smart was called for a foul.

Robinson scored eight of his 13 third-quarter points during a 17-4 spree that pushed Miami's lead to 93-77. The Heat led by 14 entering the final quarter.

Dragic's 3 gave the Heat a 105-84 edge with 9:02 to play, bringing some boos cascading down from the crowd filled to 25% percent capacity.

"I feel like this is what every player works for when the lights are on," Herro said. "I'm ready to make another run again."

## Lakers 101, Knicks 99, OT

In Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Lakers are still missing LeBron James and are without a point guard, but Talen Horton-Tucker came up big when the defending NBA champions needed it.

Horton-Tucker made the go-ahead 3-pointer with 21.1 seconds remaining in overtime, and the Lakers improved their hopes of avoiding the play-in tournament with a 101-99 victory over the New York Knicks on Tuesday night.

With James missing another game to get his sprained right ankle as healthy as possible and Alex Caruso departing early due to right foot soreness, Horton-Tucker had to step up and shoulder some of the responsibilities at point guard.

"He's got big guts and he showed that with that shot," Lakers coach Frank Vogel said. "He had a young player type of night with good and bad plays. He kept his poise though and remained confident."

## Pacers 103, 76ers 94

In Indianapolis, the Indiana Pacers helped clear up the Eastern Conference's muddled play-in picture Tuesday.

Philadelphia's second-half collapse only made it more murky at the top.

Domantas Sabonis recorded his ninth triple-double of the season with 16 points, 15 assists and 13 rebounds and Caris LeVert added 24 points to help the Pacers rally for a 103-94 play-in round clinching victory.

"We knew that if we won games, we could play our way into it," LeVert said. "But we're still trying to move up and see where we can go. This is a good milestone for us, but we've still got three, four games here this week."

Indiana has won three of its last four after finding the energy and effort that seemed to be missing for weeks.

## Kings 122, Thunder 106

In Sacramento, Calif., Terence



Davis matched his season high with 27 points, Buddy Hield had 21 and the Sacramento Kings beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 122-106 on Tuesday night to keep their slim playoff hopes alive.

Delon Wright added 21 points and eight assists for the Kings. Richaun Holmes had 13 points and seven rebounds. Maurice Harkless scored 15 points.

Sacramento (31-38) has won five of six to close within 2 ½ games of San Antonio (33-35) for the final play-in spot in the Western Conference. To get in, the Kings must win their final three games and get help from other teams to leapfrog the Spurs and New Orleans Pelicans.

"These last few games we've been clicking on a different level," Davis said. "All the guys are filling their roles and stepping up when the opportunity shows itself."

Beating the Thunder for the second time in three days left coach Luke Walton's team with at least a mathematical chance of getting in.

## Grizzlies 133, Mavericks 104

In Memphis, Tenn., Ja Morant had 24 points, eight assists and seven rebounds as the Memphis Grizzlies used a third-quarter burst to beat the Dallas Mavericks 133-104 on Tuesday night.

Dillon Brooks added 22 points and John Konchar had a season-high 18 for the Grizzlies. Kyle Anderson scored 15 points, including 10 in the key third quarter as Memphis continues to try and move up in the Western Conference standings. Konchar and Anderson both were 7 of 10 from the field, part of Memphis

shooting 57.3%.

While both teams are in the postseason, they still can improve their seedings. Memphis, which earned a spot in the play-in tournament with Monday night's win over New Orleans, still has a chance to move up to eighth.

## Timberwolves 119, Pistons 100

In Detroit, Karl-Anthony Towns scored 28 points and Anthony Edwards added 22 as the Minnesota Timberwolves beat the undermanned Detroit Pistons 119-100 on Tuesday night in a game with significant lottery implications.

"I thought we did a professional job out there tonight," Timberwolves coach Chris Finch said. "There were a couple times where we lost focus, but we kept things going and got the job done."

Minnesota's second straight win was its 22nd in 69 games, while the Pistons dropped to 20-50. The Houston Rockets (16-53) are the only team with fewer wins than Detroit. There are three teams—the Oklahoma City Thunder, the Orlando Magic and the Cleveland Cavaliers—with 21 wins.

Ricky Rubio added 19 points for Minnesota while DeAngelo Russell had 15 points and 10 assists.

## Bucks 114, Magic 102

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 27 points and the Milwaukee Bucks kept up their chase of the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference with a 114-102 victory over the Orlando Magic on Tuesday night.

The Bucks (44-25) remained a game behind Brooklyn (45-24) for the second spot in the East. The Nets

defeated Chicago 115-107 on Tuesday night.

Milwaukee, which holds the tiebreaker over the Nets, plays two of its final three games on the road, while Brooklyn finishes with three at home. Brooklyn is two games behind Philadelphia, which lost at Indiana.

## Nets 115, Bulls 107

In Chicago, Kevin Durant had 21 points and eight assists, and the Brooklyn Nets beat the Chicago Bulls 115-107 on Tuesday night despite Zach LaVine's 41 points.

Joe Harris added 17 points and Bruce Brown had 15 points and 10 rebounds as Brooklyn won its second straight after a four-game slide.

"That's what we do every game," Durant said after the Nets finished with 32 assists on 42 field goals. "That's who we've been all season."

Chicago had its three-game winning streak—and probably its postseason hopes—nd.

Brooklyn, which lost guard Kyrie Irving to an apparent facial injury early in the second half, led 93-74 at the start of the final period and sat its starters for most of the period. LaVine, who had 12 points in the fourth, forced them back in by scoring eight straight to cut the lead to 102-91 with 4:54 to play.

## Clippers 115, Raptors 96

In Tampa, Fla., Kawhi Leonard scored 20 points, Paul George added 16 and the Los Angeles Clippers led all the way Tuesday night in a 115-96 win over the Toronto Raptors.

Terance Mann also scored 20 points and Ivica Zubac had 18 points and 10 rebounds for

Boston Celtics guard Evan Fournier (94) tries to block a shot by Miami Heat guard Tyler Herro during the second half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, May 11, 2021, in Boston. AP

the Clippers, who stayed one game ahead of the Denver Nuggets in the race for third place in the Western Conference. Both teams have three road games left to play. The Nuggets hold the tiebreaker, having won two of three against the Clippers.

Chris Boucher had 16 points and seven rebounds for the Raptors, who played without most of their regular rotation and lost for the seventh time in eight games.

## Warriors 122, Suns 116

In San Francisco, Jordan Poole hit a go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:43 left, Andrew Wiggins scored the next time down and finished with 38 points, rallying the Golden State Warriors past the Phoenix Suns 122-116 on Tuesday night.

Draymond Green notched his sixth triple-double of the season and 29th of his career with 11 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds as the Warriors made it two wins in as many nights against two top teams in the Western Conference.

Stephen Curry made a 9-foot jumper with 45 seconds left while falling to the floor, a bright finish to his 21-point performance on another tough outing for him shooting 3-pointers.

Golden State secured a spot in the play-in tournament with Monday's 119-116 win against the Jazz then held on against a talented Suns team.

## Nuggets 117, Hornets 112

In Charlotte, N.C., the Denver Nuggets will have home-court advantage for at least one playoff series.

The Charlotte Hornets have a chance to play their way into the postseason.

Michael Porter Jr. and Nikola Jokic each scored 30 points, and the Nuggets held off the Hornets 117-112 on Tuesday night to snap a two-game slide and clinch no worse than fourth place in the Western Conference.

The win allows the Nuggets the option to rest players for the final three regular-season road games, but Porter has mixed feelings on that.

"Well, you want to stay in rhythm, too," Porter said. "And we have like a week off after the season to rest so I don't see a big need for it. It's up to (the team). If they want to avoid some crazy injury before the playoffs, then that's cool. But I don't feel a need body-wise."

# Bieber extends strikeout record, pitching Indians past Cubs



C L E V E -  
L A N D

(AP)—Shane Bieber pitched out of some early trouble before extending his strikeout record and César Hernández hit a two-run homer, sending the Cleveland Indians to a 3-2 win over the Chicago Cubs on Tuesday night.

Bieber (4-2) struck out eight and has now fanned at least that many in 20 consecutive starts, a major league mark he builds on every time out. The right-hander's streak was in jeopardy, but he got Nick Martini for strikeout No. 8 in the seventh.

The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner wasn't as sharp as usual and needed a career-high 121 pitches to go 6 2/3 innings.

James Karinchak finished the seventh for Bieber and worked the eighth. Emmanuel Clase gave up two singles in the ninth, but got Matt Duffy to bounce into a game-ending double play for his seventh save.

Hernández homered in the fifth off Adbert Alzolay (1-3), who matched Bieber for six innings.

## Astros 5, Angels 1

In Houston, Shohei Ohtani struck out 10 in an impressive duel with Lance McCullers Jr., and Houston broke loose against the Los Angeles bullpen.

Ohtani allowed one run and four hits with one walk in seven innings, his longest start of the season. The two-way star then moved to play right field, and Yuli Gurriel homered during Houston's four-run eighth.

Ohtani batted second and went 1 for 4, striking out twice.

McCullers (3-1) yielded three hits, including a homer by Taylor Ward, while tying a season high with nine strikeouts in going eight innings, his longest start this season. He walked two.

Angels reliever Aaron Slegers (2-1) took the loss after Michael Brantley drove in the go-ahead run off Alex Claudio.

## Padres 8, Rockies 1

In Denver, Manny Machado homered and tripled to drive in five runs, helping to make up for the absence of star shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. and several other teammates as San Diego beat Colorado.

Tatis and outfielder Wil Myers have tested positive for COVID-19, while first baseman Eric Hosmer and two backups are now out for contact tracing, leaving the Padres shorthanded at Coors Field.

Hosmer and Myers both were pulled out in the middle of the game.

Padres manager Jayce Tingler said he hoped the fallout



AP  
Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Shane Bieber tosses the ball to first base to get Chicago Cubs' Joc Pederson out in the third inning of a baseball game, Tuesday, May 11, 2021, in Cleveland.

knee by Josh Bell's foul ball in the seventh inning.

Trea Turner homered for Washington, which has dropped six of seven.

Chase Anderson (2-3) retired 15 of 16 after yielding two hits to begin the game.

Erick Fedde (2-4) threw only one perfect inning—his last—while making it through five. He surrendered five hits, three walks and three runs and struck out five.

## Pirates 7, Reds 2

In Pittsburgh, Troy Stokes Jr. drove in runs with each of his first two major league hits, JT Brubaker pitched six strong innings and Pittsburgh beat Cincinnati.

Two days after making his debut, Stokes hit an RBI single in the fourth inning. The right fielder also doubled in a run in the eighth.

Brubaker (3-2) allowed one run on five hits to win for the first time in four starts. He had four strikeouts and one walk.

The Pirates had lost eight straight games to the Reds.

Jeff Hoffman (2-3) lasted four innings, giving up three runs and four hits.

## Tigers 8, Royals 7

In Detroit, Robbie Grossman singled home the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning and Detroit, after squandering a seven-run lead late, recovered to beat skidding Kansas City.

Grossman had five RBIs for the first time in his career, sending the Royals to their ninth straight loss. He ripped a two-out single off Scott Barlow (1-1) in the ninth to score Niko Goodrum.

The major league-worst Tigers led 7-0 with two outs in the eighth. But then Jorge Soler homered and drove in six runs over the final two innings as Kansas City rallied to spoil a great start by Matthew Boyd.

The left-hander pitched six scoreless innings for Detroit, striking out five and walking two.

Gregory Soto (3-1) got one out after Jose Cisnero allowed three runs in the top of the ninth.

## White Sox 9, Twins 3

In Chicago, José Abreu hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the sixth inning and Chicago beat Minnesota for its fourth straight win.

Abreu went deep to left center on the first pitch he saw from Jorge Alcalá (0-1) for his seventh homer.

Yasmani Grandal lofted a three-run homer in the second for first-place Chicago.

Garrett Crochet (1-2), the second of five Chicago relievers, worked two-thirds of an inning for his first career win.

from the virus would stop and anticipated San Diego could play a doubleheader as scheduled Wednesday against the Rockies.

Tatis was put on the injured list. The Padres also were missing utility players Jurickson Profar and Jorge Mateo, who went on the IL as part of baseball's contact tracing health and safety protocols.

Myers crashed into the right-field wall in the first inning while catching Garrett Hampson's deep fly ball. Machado hit a two-run drive off Antonio Senzatela (1-4) in the fifth.

Miguel Diaz (1-0) tossed three innings of scoreless relief.

## Dodgers 6, Mariners 4

In Los Angeles, Gavin Lux hit a dramatic three-run homer in the eighth inning, and the struggling Los Angeles Dodgers rallied late to beat Seattle.

Lux's first homer of the season came off Rafael Montero (3-2) and helped the defending World Series champions open a nine-game homestand with just their sixth win in 21 games.

Corey Seager had a two-run single in the seventh for the Dodgers, and Max Muncy hit an early homer as they fell behind 4-1.

Mitch Haniger hit two solo homers and Kyle Seager added a two-run shot for the Mariners, who have lost three straight on their five-game road trip.

Garrett Cleavinger (1-3) pitched a perfect eighth for his first major league win. Kenley Jansen worked a flawless ninth for his sixth save.

Seattle couldn't capitalize on a strong start by Yusei Kikuchi, who racked up a career-

## Mets 3, Orioles 2

In New York, Patrick Mazeika got his second walkoff RBI in four career games with a fielder's choice grounder in the ninth inning, helping banged-up New York rally to beat Baltimore.

The Mets have won six straight.

Baltimore led 2-1 entering the ninth after John Means outdueled Marcus Stroman in his first start since throwing a no-hitter last week.

Mazeika pinch hit in the pitcher's spot with two on and one out against closer César Valdez and hit a grounder that scored Jonathan Villar.

Valdez (2-1) blew his third save in 11 chances. Jeury Familia (1-0) dodged trouble in the eighth and got the win.

## Athletics 3, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Chris Bassitt struck out a season-high 10 over seven effective innings and Oakland beat Boston.

Matt Chapman and Elvis Andrus hit RBI singles for the A's in the seventh inning as Oakland broke a 1-all tie. Matt Olson also had an RBI single for the A's.

Bassitt (3-2) allowed three hits and two runs.

Darwinzon Hernandez (0-2) relieved Nathan Eovaldi in the seventh and took the loss.

Yusmeiro Petit pitched a scoreless eighth and Jake Diekman got his fourth save despite walking two batters in the ninth.

## Diamondbacks 11, Marlins 3

In Phoenix, Madison Bumgarner threw seven shutout innings, Asdrúbal Cabrera had four hits

best 11 strikeouts while pitching into the seventh inning.

Bumgarner (4-2) gave up just four hits that all came in different innings. He added a sacrifice fly at the plate for his first RBI of the season.

The Diamondbacks broke the game open in the fifth when they sent 11 batters to the plate, scored five runs and pushed to a 6-0 lead. That chased starter Pablo López (0-3), who gave up six earned runs over 4 1/3 innings.

## Yankees 3, Rays 1

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Jordan Montgomery pitched six strong innings, Aaron Judge and Gary Sánchez homered, and New York beat Tampa Bay for the second time in seven games this season.

New York slugger Luke Voit went 0 for 3 in his first game this season. He had knee surgery on March 29.

Montgomery (2-1) gave up one run, two hits, walked one and tied a career high with nine strikeouts. After Jonathan Loaisiga worked two innings, Aroldis Chapman got three outs to get his eighth save and complete a three-hitter.

Judge started in right field after being rested Sunday and hit a first-pitch, first-inning solo homer off Luis Patiño (1-1).

## Giants 4, Rangers 2

In San Francisco, Logan Webb set a career high with 10 strikeouts in six innings and San Francisco beat Texas.

Swept in the two-game series, Texas dropped to 0-5 against NL opponents this year.

Mike Yastrzemski and Brandon Belt drove in runs for San Francisco.

Webb (2-3) allowed two

runs and three hits to earn his first win in his last three starts. Jake McGee pitched a perfect ninth inning for his 10th save.

Jordan Lyles (1-3) gave up two runs in five innings, striking out six.

## Cardinals 6, Brewers 1, 11 innings

In Milwaukee, Paul Goldschmidt and Tyler O'Neill homered off Brad Boxberger in the 11th inning and St. Louis beat Milwaukee for its fourth straight victory.

Goldschmidt broke a 1-all tie when he sent the first pitch he saw from Boxberger (0-1) well over the wall in left-center field for a two-run blast. O'Neill followed later with a three-run shot.

St. Louis has won 10 of its last 12 and is tied with San Francisco for the best record in the majors.

The Brewers wasted a brilliant effort from starter Freddy Peralta, who struck out eight and gave up just one hit and one walk in seven shutout innings.

Cardinals reliever Alex Reyes (2-0) pitched two scoreless innings, wiggling out of trouble both times.

## Blue Jays 5, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. homered and Toronto took advantage of Atlanta's indecisive fielding in the eighth inning to rally past the Braves.

Guerrero had three hits, including a tying single in a three-run eighth.

Ronald Acuña Jr. hit his major league-leading 11th homer for Atlanta. Marcell Ozuna also connected.

Toronto trailed 3-2 when Jonathan Davis led off the eighth with a double. Marcus Semien followed with a weak grounder to reliever A.J. Minter (1-1), who turned, hesitated and then threw too late to try to catch Davis returning to second base. First baseman Freddie Freeman also hesitated on a grounder later in the inning.

Trent Thornton (1-0) pitched a scoreless seventh.

Jordan Romano survived a stressful ninth to earn his first save.

## Phillies 6, Nationals 2

In Washington, Bryce Harper treated heckling fans to a long home run, Andrew Knapp delivered a key pinch-hit in place of injured catcher J.T. Realmuto and Philadelphia beat Washington.

Realmuto was hit in the left

# Patriots' White ready to turn page on painful 2020 season



**BOSTON**  
(AP) — For James White, the upcoming 2021 NFL season is all about starting fresh, both on and off the field.

It was just this past September that the veteran Patriots running back was blindsided hours before New England's second game of the season with news of a horrific car accident in Florida that killed his father and critically injured his mother.

It's given him the chance to

return to the field two weeks later but struggled statistically for the remainder of a 2020 season that saw the usually dominant Patriots stumble to a 7-9 finish and miss the playoffs for the first time during White's seven seasons with the team.

But after an admittedly odd free agency experience that had him wondering if he'd wear a New England jersey again, White is back after signing a one-year deal.

It's given him the chance to

resume his football career, but more importantly an opportunity to continue the process of moving past the pains he experienced in 2020.

"Free agency is really strange," White said Tuesday. "Honestly, day to day everything kind of changes a little bit. Some days a team may have interest, other days they may not. ... It's a little different than you might ever imagine. It's a lot of worrying what's going to be next and where you're going to be next."

"But obviously, the Patriots were in the mix the whole time and it's good to be back. It's good to be back with these guys and just find a way to improve. That starts now."



In this Monday, Nov. 9, 2020 file photo, New England Patriots running back James White (28) warms up before an NFL football game against the New York Jets in East Rutherford, N.J.

cited and started clapping her hands, excited that I was actually doing it," White recalled. "The pandemic was actually fortunate for me because my last class I was able to take it online when typically I would have had to be on campus.

"Just happy that my wife and parents they kept me motivated to finish it and just good to finally be done."

On the field, White joins a revamped group of running backs that also features returnees Damien Harris and Sony Michel, along with rookie Rhamondre Stevenson out of Oklahoma.

"Everybody has their own unique style, and I think that's really cool," White said. "Everybody knows we're not going to play 100 percent of the snaps and we all just work together and have fun and make the most of opportunities. And I see a lot of capable guys and guys that are going to compete and have fun."

## Join CHCC's Mental Health Awareness Run

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has introduced a virtual 5K/1-mile Mental Health Awareness Month Run that will go on for the entire month of May.

The CHC Community Guidance Center is encouraging everyone to participate in the virtual event to spread awareness about mental health from May 3 to May 31, and the best part, it's at your own pace and at your own convenience.

For those who would like to support the virtual run, all you must do is download any running app, record your distance, and post a screenshot with the hashtags #MENTALHEALTHMATTERS

and #NMI4MENTALHEALTH.

With May proclaimed Mental Health Awareness Month, the CGC says is a timely reminder that one's emotional, psychological, and social well-being are important to one's overall health.

CGC encourages everyone struggling to try out the "Five Senses Grounding Technique" to calm yourself when faced with challenging thoughts, emotions, or situations.

If you or a loved one is feeling overwhelmed by stress and feel you cannot cope, there are ways to get help. You can reach out to the CHCC: Community Guidance Center at 323-6560/1 or the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

## TREVALLY HUNTERS DERBY

Organizers and participants of the Kristo Rai Trevally Hunters Derby pose for a group photo at the Gov. Froilan Tenorio Beach Pathway during their recent fishing event at a beach near the Atkins Toyota in San Jose/Oleai. Participants have been



vying for the third prize as the first and second prizes had already been won. The friendly fishing derby started last Feb. 1.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

## CAROL

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Diemen, Mahak Jain, Jones, and Hrastar gave the Yellow Jackets their first three victories in singles play after prevailing against Goines, 6-0, 6-0, Meier, 6-1, 6-4, and Mila Hartig, 6-3, 6-2, respectively. Flores also played in the singles and was winning, 6-3, 4-3, when the game was

called off.

After shutting down the Eagles, Lee and company returned to the Ken Byers Tennis Complex and picked up where they left off following a 4-0 win over the University of North Florida.

Lee played at No. 5 in the singles event versus North Florida and was one point away from sweeping Anna-

## WAWA

From Page 20

Also earning recognition that day were closest to the pin winners Mel Sablan who came closest in hole No. 4, Calvin Yamagishi in hole No. 6, Jay Muna in hole No. 11, and Justin Lowe who won the KP award for getting closest in hole No. 15.

Aside from recognition, all KP winners won \$215 each.

The MGA had its May ace at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort east course with a total of 45 members and a guest joining the monthly ace. This ace is the start of the new MGA season for year 2021/2022. MGA's golf season will run from May 2021 through April 2022.

MGA holds its monthly aces once a month circulating the four current golf courses and

belle Davis, 6-1, 5-2, when the match was halted as Georgia Tech had already secured the victory when Flores outclassed Catherine Gulihur in the No. 2 singles, 6-3, 6-2.

With their back-to-back wins, Lee and the Yellow Jackets will make its 11th appearance to the Round of 16 of the NCAA Championships. Next up for the No. 13 Georgia Tech is No.

are always inviting interested golfers to join the MGA club. All interested participants need to do is reach out to a current MGA member for details.

New members must pay an annual fee of \$40 and returning members must pay \$30.

MGA welcomes its new MGA members, Bart Jackson, Daron Jones, Brian Camacho, Nate Camacho, Bill Camacho, Jay Muna,

Zack Sasamoto, Justin Lowe, T.J. Dela Cruz, Martin Naputi, and Cameron Nicholas.

The association also gained three new female players who joined the May ace, namely Erlinda Naputi, Geri Dela Cruz, and Esther Muña who played as guests.

The Ace of Aces Championship was held simultaneously with the May ace but results have yet to be published.

in at 10:15, earning herself the bronze medal.

Also topping an event in the 12U division was Page Blanco who conquered the long jump event with a distance of 3.5. Ysabelle Lenteja came in second after a recorded distance of 3.41. Making top three was Paulani Dela Cruz with a distance of 3.10.

Team SIS won the girls 9U and 12U division with 229 points, followed by Kagman Elementary School with 85 points. Tinian Elementary School made their trip to Saipan worthwhile with a third place finish after earning 78 points.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
x-Philadelphia	47	.681	—	
x-Brooklyn	45	.652	2	
New York	38	.551	9	
Boston	35	.507	12	
Toronto	27	.421	20	
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	38	.551	—	
x-Miami	38	.551	—	
Charlotte	33	.478	5	
Washington	32	.464	6	
Orlando	21	.408	17	
Central Division				
y-Milwaukee	44	.638	—	
Indiana	33	.478	11	
Chicago	29	.420	15	
Cleveland	21	.304	23	
Detroit	20	.286	24½	
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
Dallas	40	.580	—	
Memphis	36	.522	4	
San Antonio	33	.485	6½	
New Orleans	31	.449	9	
Houston	16	.232	24	
Northwest Division				
y-Utah	50	.725	—	
x-Denver	45	.652	5	
Portland	40	.580	10	
Minnesota	22	.319	28	
Oklahoma City	21	.300	29½	
Pacific Division				
x-Phoenix	48	.696	—	
x-L.A. Clippers	46	.667	2	
L.A. Lakers	39	.565	9	
Golden State	37	.529	11½	
Sacramento	31	.449	17	
x-clinched playoff spot				
y-clinched division				

### MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	22	.595	—	
New York	19	.543	2	
Toronto	18	.529	2½	
Tampa Bay	19	.514	3	
Baltimore	16	.444	5½	
Central Division				
Chicago	20	.606	—	
Cleveland	19	.576	1	
Kansas City	16	.471	4½	
Minnesota	12	.364	8	
Detroit	11	.24	314	10
West Division				
Oakland	22	.595	—	
Houston	19	.528	2½	
Seattle	18	.500	3½	
Texas	18	.474	4½	
Los Angeles	16	.457	5	
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
New York	17	.567	—	
Philadelphia	19	.528	1	
Atlanta	17	.486	2½	
Miami	15	.429	4½	
Washington	13	.419	4½	
Central Division				
St. Louis	22	.611	—	
Milwaukee	19	.528	3	
Chicago	17	.486	4½	
Cincinnati	16	.485	4½	
Pittsburgh	15	.429	6½	
West Division				
San Francisco	22	.611	—	
San Diego	20	.556	2	
Los Angeles	19	.528	3	
Arizona	17	.472	5	
Colorado	12	.343	9½	

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### BARBARA

From Page 20

who submitted a time of 7:21 to gain herself a silver medal. Coming in at third place was SIS' Suki Peng who came in at 7:42.

The 800m event was a close match but Wang continued to prevail, placing first with a time of 3:13. Clos



Heat clinch playoff spot with 129-121 victory over Celtics

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Patriots' White ready to turn page on painful 2020 season

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

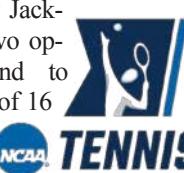
## Carol, Georgia Tech reach Round of 16

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee continues to have a notable rookie season in the collegiate ranks, as she joined Georgia Tech in the 2021 NCAA DI Women's Tennis Championships.

Lee and the Yellow Jackets swept their first two opponents last weekend to make it to the Round of 16 of the season-ending team tournament in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's tennis event.

Georgia Tech first dominated Georgia Southern, 5-0, last Friday (Saturday on Saipan) at the Ken Byers Tennis Complex in Atlanta. Lee played both in the singles and doubles events in their duel against Georgia Southern, teaming up with Monika Dedaj in whipping Elizabeth Goines and Sonja Kieran, 6-0. Lee and Dedaj handed the Yellow Jackets the first doubles win and Georgia Tech took the



outright victory and one point in the event after Ava Hrastar and Gia Cohen defeated Nadja Meier and Paula Boixader, 6-4. With the win secured, Kenya Jones and Victoria Flores, who were ahead of Diemen and Sophie Wagemaker, 5-3, did not finish the third doubles game.

In singles play, Lee also played and won in the first set against Paula Hijos and was leading at 3-2 in the second set, when the game was stopped, as Georgia Tech had already completed the sweep following Cohen's 6-3, 6-1 triumph over Charlotte van

**See CAROL on Page 19**



GEORGIA TECH PHOTO  
Georgia Tech's Carol Lee makes a baseline return to North Carolina's Makenna Jones in the finals of the ACC Tournament at the Rome Tennis Center in Georgia last month.

### Wawa Atalig is first Ace of the season

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
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REPORTER

 Joshua "Wawa" Atalig was named the Marianas Golf Association first winner for the 2021-2022 season after topping ace of month tournament last May 1 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort east course.

During the tournament last Saturday, Atalig, one of MGA's 14-year-old junior golfers, defeated 45 other competitors after shooting a 38 in the front nine and a 45 in the back nine for a gross score of 83. Atalig, who sported a 26-handicap and a net score of 57, grabbed the first ace of the MGA 2021/2022 season.

James Benavente, Dung Tenorio and Roderick Zandueta tied for the second-lowest net score of the day with a 67, but Benavente edged out Tenorio and Zandueta on a scorecard playoff to bag second place, while Tenorio knocked out Zandueta to secure third place.

**See WAWA on Page 19**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Joshua "Wawa" Atalig was named the Marianas Golf Association first ace for the 2021-2022 season after topping monthly ace tournament for the month of May.

### Barbara Wang-derful in Championships

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School's Barbara Wang topped four of eight championship events in the girls 12U division of the 2021 PSS/ McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships that concluded last Saturday.

Wang topped the softball throw, the 1,500m event,

the 800m race, and the 400m course last weekend.

In the softball throw, Wang took home the gold after recording a distance of 21.65m followed by Neveah Cabrera from Tinian Elementary School who made a distance of 21.6 to gain her the silver medal. Completing the Top 3 was Suki Peng

**See BARBARA on Page 19**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
From left, Neveah Cabrera of Tinian Elementary School, Barbara Wang of Agape Christian School, and Suki Peng of Saipan International School finished second, first, and third, respectively in last weekend's girls 12U softball throw of the 2021 PSS/ McDonald's All Schools Athletics Championships at the Oleai track and field.